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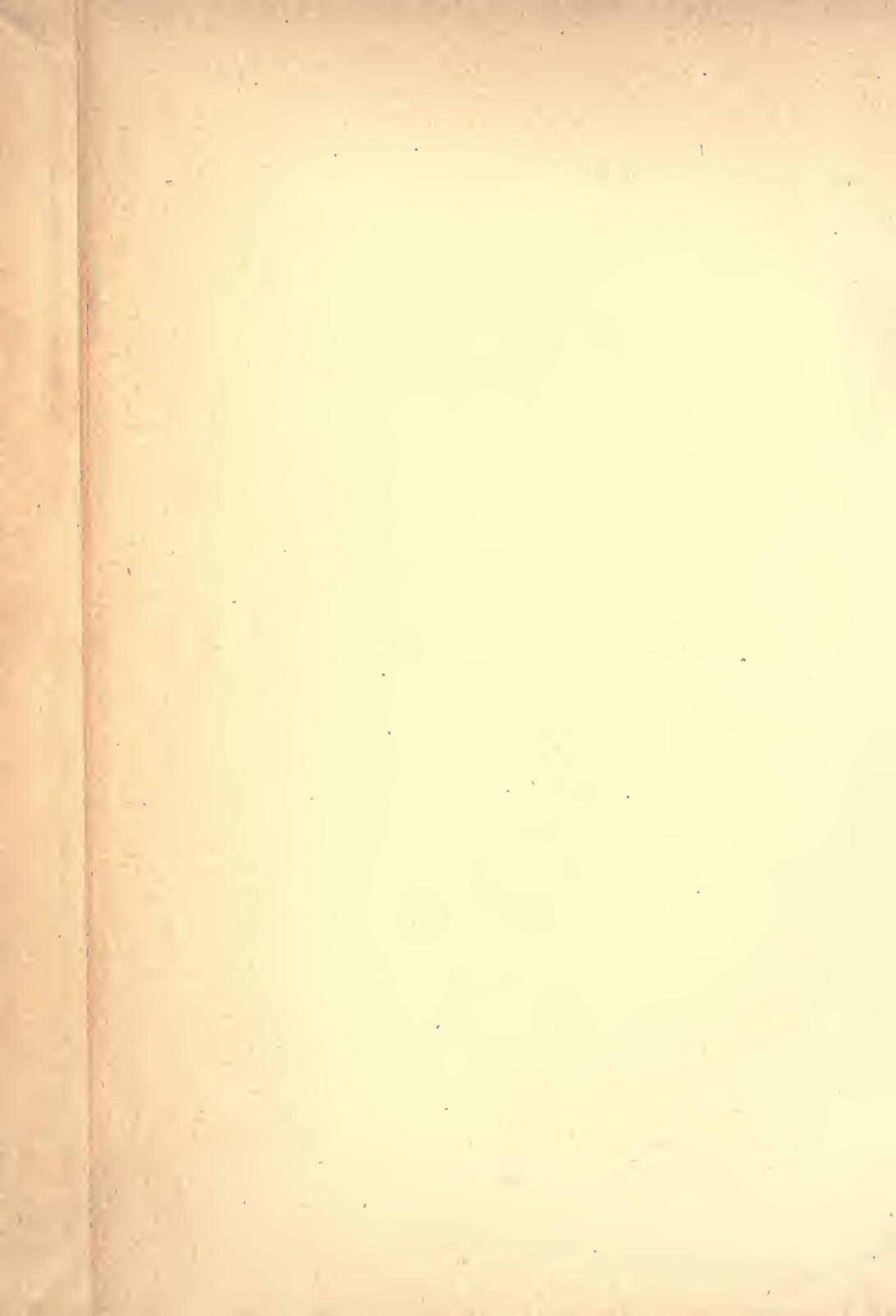
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# Intimations of Heaven





# INTIMATIONS OF HEAVEN AND OTHER POEMS

BY

HORACE EATON WALKER

*"Ars longa, vita brevis."*

CLAREMONT N. H.  
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## CONTENTS

INTIMATIONS OF HEAVEN  
THE LADY OF SANTA ROSA  
MY AIDENN  
SONG OF THE SEA-SHELL  
HELL AND HÉAVEN  
AMABEL

764026



## INTIMATIONS OF HEAVEN

*I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts.—Ecclesiastes.*

### I.

Hear: "Vanity of vanities"; but I:

Have profit in thy labors all thy days,  
And tho' the generations pass, the lays  
Of well-spent hours shall sing to thee. The sky  
Shall hold the glorious sun. The winds shall dry  
The earth, go to the torrid south; the blaze  
Of suns shall blind; but have a heart and Mays  
Will be as lilting birds that once did fly.

For in these days we need the largest hope.

Since Doubt is mountainous in all our lives;  
Many today in horrid darkness grope;

But I: As bees about their honeyed hives  
Let joys flock round thy hearts. Fling doubt and stretch  
The portals of thy being, doubting wretch!

## II.

And though all streams run to the emerald sea,  
The sea is still unfilled; but may thy heart  
For very gladness be o'erfilled; and art,  
And song, and merry-making be to thee  
An aureole above thy life; for glee  
Is medicine to every heart. In mart,  
In by-ways, and green lanes, let joys upstart.  
And heaven to earth be a reality!  
The cup of gladness; drink it to the dregs,  
As some old bibber lost in happiness,  
And every nest will have its speckled eggs  
Of new delights. Put on thy wedding dress,  
Regain the smiles when love first made thee bride.  
Throw doubt, and sail with joy the honied tide.

## III.

All things are full of labor. Bear thy load,  
For in the doing thou shalt have delight.  
The pressèd juice of grapes will sweeten, night  
With million stars shall light thee on thy road  
To Edens. Happiness in thine abode  
Shall wear tiaras golden, and "the light  
Not found on sea or land," effulgent white,  
Shall dome above thee, life be one long ode.  
So, drink of gladness; chase the yellow bow;  
Find bag of gold; be happy butterfly  
And woo the gilded glories round thee; go  
Among the clover, where the grass is high.  
And be a lad again; the melody  
Of nightingales be one long song to thee.

## IV.

The thing that hath been is to be ; then love,  
And flowery brides, and beauty, holiness  
Of heart and soul. So, bring thy bridal dress,  
And bring the crushèd rose that heaved above  
Thy heart at Hymen's altar ; then a dove  
Of Ararat you seemed to him, not less  
Than eve's one star ; while love with gentle stress,  
Pressed life's new hope, and flung the wedding glove.  
So, dare remember all the joys that were,  
The bridal wreath, the lover's stolen kiss,  
And fall upon thy knees once more to her,  
And try to win the beauty and the bliss  
That once were thine when life was fresh and new,  
And every rosy sparkled in its dew.

## V.

No new thing 'neath the sun? Ah me! Ah me!  
Where all our hopes and aspirations? Say:  
Shall inky night befoul my marriage lay?  
Shall every hope and aspiration be  
Dethroned, and relegated to the sea  
Where Hope's new wings were clipped? I tell thee, nay!  
Fling out Hope's banner to the light of day,  
And sail fore'er with gladsome Jollity!  
And build thy gilded castles in the air,  
Raise minaret and turret to the sky,  
And on thy tombstone Hope and not Despair;  
Fling flowerets like a rainbow up on high;  
Be merry as the flowers, make old things new;  
'Twill build a hope from heaven down to you!

## VI.

And no remembrance? Ah! to thee, gray hairs,  
Shall be oblivion in thy hoary age;  
Thou canst no more unclasp the hallowed page  
And read: In orchard 'neath the mellowed pears  
The rosy god entangled me in snares  
Of love! and there in love's assumed rage  
I stormed and stamped. But last in gilded cage  
He prisoned me, I captured unawares.  
And so he shall not turn these hallowed leaves  
Of memory, shall not dare recall the flowers  
Of bridal days, when 'neath the mouldered eaves  
He plucked them, crowning all the happy hours  
With life's new wreath, and breathed a tale to her  
That made life's violets sound out merrier.

## VII.

And I was king. And so a king am I;  
I shall not be dethroned. My gilded rod  
Is bright with age. I climb with silvered hod  
The building that I build. The hours may fly,  
The clouds may gather in the rounded sky,  
And thunders crash above me: flowered sod  
Shall smile in loveliness up to its God;  
For Hope doth bow above us far on high.  
So, once a king, be king for aye: let Time  
Roll on in chariot car, and days and years;  
Hold fast thou hast, and life shall rhyme and rhyme  
In one glad song; and all thy falling tears  
Will turn to beaded gems, and every thing  
Will grow to beauty like a jeweled spring.



## VIII.

And he was preacher. Let no tale of woe  
Be preached to me. I'll fling my starry flag  
Against the clouds. Wilt call it tattered rag?  
An emblem of defeat? Let tidings go:  
Happiness still spans like overarching bow,  
And he who dares to say my golden bag  
Is empty, finds my banner does not sag,  
But floats o'er every hut and bungalow!  
Go! the Procession moves apace. The star  
Of hope is on our gilded ensign; back  
We look and forward. O'er the sanded bar  
Of death we never go. The beaten track  
Of glory, hope, we march with rhythmic feet,  
And on our banner is no word Defeat!

## IX.

I gave my heart to seek all wisdom. Time  
Flew on. The days were wedded to the years  
In haloed glory. Here was death with tears,  
And here was love with many a marriage rhyme,  
And here was wisdom, genius in his clime  
Of song, and high court-ladies with the peers  
Of Parliament, and some had jibes and jeers;  
But, over all, Omnipotence sublime!  
I squeeze the orange, and my hope is there,  
I press the grape, and rare delicious wines  
Of Magra touch my lips. With golden hair  
My muse has come; with corrugated lines,  
Like crinkling waters, rippled down her back  
Her golden hair, sweet flowerets in her track.

## X.

Yea, I have seen all works beneath the sun ;  
But dare not tell me vanity, that all  
Is vanity. A builder build a wall  
I've seen, to shelter little children won  
From murky streets, and then caparison  
Them all with heaven's happy coronal ;  
I've seen a mother with a remnant shawl  
Bend homeward, her last scrap of duty done.  
So, lift the glory of this mundane sphere  
Against the stars. We may not raise the dead ;  
But death has won our heart's unstinted tear ;  
And, therefore, shall we cry when she is wed ?  
Nay, nay, take not our hope ! Let cloudless skies  
Expand with golden rainbow o'er our eyes.

## XI.

Our ways are crooked ? Who shall make them straight ?  
But pardon, we will fling our flowers to thee,  
O Heaven ! We'll sail our life's tempestuous sea  
With all things fair, and Hope shall be our mate ;  
Our crew the best ! To come here was our fate,  
Yet we dare hope our song will rise and be  
A rhyme among the stars, Eternity  
Will hear, and God find waiting at the Gate !  
So, let us place a rosy on her grave ;  
So, let us mourn when we are sad and drear, ,  
And let us sing o'er death our solemn stave,  
And drop above our dead the silent tear ;  
And when we lay her in the quiet tomb,  
O let us feel she's smiling thro' the gloom !

## XII.

And never man had greater wisdom ; I  
Was ruler ; I communed with mine own heart ;  
Yet vanity. O preacher ! let mine art  
Place love's embroidery o'er the earth and sky,  
A veil of beauty over death, with dye  
Cerulean paint all woe, the flowers that start  
O'er new-made graves, transpose to heal the smart  
Of dissolution, hallow those that die.  
Since I, O Preacher ! now would change all woe  
To beauty, and make death a glorious hope :  
This life a preparation till we go  
In grand procession thro' the doors that ope  
To Heaven ; for I have come to preach of love.  
And hope, and of that Wreath of flowers above.

## XIII.

I gave my heart to know all wisdom, folly ;  
And yet I found vexation. Why this sadness ?  
Obliteration of all hope ? This madness  
With things that we call beautiful ? O jolly  
Hand-maidens, pouting girls, drive melancholy  
Over the caverned Styx ; and boys of gladness  
Blow all your trumps of joy and chase this badness  
From earth and twine the Michaelmas green holly.  
For I have drawn a flaming sword, and hero  
In life's great vanguard, I shall lead to battle  
For peace, and white contrition ; every Nero  
Shall feel my blade ! We 're not "dumb, driven cattle,"  
But human gods with spirits born in heaven ;  
With strength of one ? Yea, as the strength of seven !

## XIV.

Yes, in much wisdom there is grief, and so  
Does knowledge cause us sorrow. Yet, dear Bard:  
Inspired by heaven, I love the daisied yard  
By cabin home, the lovely flowers that blow;  
I love to see the rainstorm's yellow bow  
Across the mountains, an embroidered card,  
A chiseled cameo, a poet starred  
By earth, with banners flaunting high and low.  
For hear my mandate, doubter, infidel:  
This life is but a premonition grand  
To me, of that high life where faretheewell  
Is never spoken; where a wingèd band,  
Like great white clouds, throng our Jerusalem,  
White-robed and crowned by starry anadem.

## XV.

And so avaunt! all doubt. Serene and fair,  
Come sweet Placidity, and happy girls  
With wreathèd horns, and love-entangled curls,  
And flowery bosoms, apple cheeks as rare  
As Eden peach, with rippling golden hair,  
And winy gladness, tangling gray old ears  
In meshes of delight, revealing pearls  
In pursèd mouth, and hearts as light as air.  
For melancholy, trials, troubles, all  
And everything that comes to mar our mirth,  
Get hence and leer behind thy dungeon wall;  
For fairies shall adorn our lovely earth,  
And dispositions sweet as pressèd wine,  
Shall be to all of earth from heaven divine.

## XVI.

Go place a rosy on the bride, a ring  
Of gold bring unto her. Make merry. Paint  
All splendors of the morning. Make a saint  
Of her. Put on thy wedding suit and bring  
New gladness unto her. The bridal spring  
Put in her heart. Discoloration, taint,  
Disfigurement, and woe, and all complaint,  
Put these aside, and basket roses fling.  
For, hear again : I come to battle worry,  
And disaffection, sour entangled creeds,  
And stop this strain for wealth, this hurry, hurry ;  
This mad contention ; trample on the weeds  
Of old hallucination ; fling about  
The seeds of peace, and crush this age's Doubt !

## XVII.

I'll build me castles by the sanded sea,  
I'll raise me houses full of all things fair,  
I'll be a lover of old books so rare  
That earth has not another. I will be  
As free as soft Balalo gales, and tree,  
And shrub, and vine, and vert, and voweled air  
From thrummèd lute, shall come from everywhere,  
And please me with their braided rarity.  
For, jolly girls, be jollier still, and swains,  
Pipe out new songs ; and cow-boys fling your hats  
Against the clouds, and send the Bacchus strains  
Down into hearts of gloom ; and pastoral mats,  
And Turkish rugs, and everything of beauty  
Bring to our lives ; for 'tis your right, your duty !

## XVIII.

Place rare bouquets upon your shelves ; fetch art  
From every clime, and sculpture-work of Greece.  
And all the love of Dante's Beatrice,  
And Ariosto's Princess. Laura. Start  
In all directions ; love to shrine the heart  
With all things beautiful ; and find release  
From foul-faced woe, till tessellated Peace  
Shall smile eternal, tho' death fling his dart.  
And music bring, and viols tuned rare,  
And lutes that Orphean hands shall touch, and lutes  
That blessed Sapphos loved ; and maids with hair  
Of gold, and marble boys, white little mutes,  
And all things fair, till jolly cheeks of joy  
Are red with love, life's buoyant as a boy.

## XIX.

Burn Voltaire. Never read a bitter book  
Of theologic doubt ; and never gaze  
On prurient picture. Come from out the haze  
Of turgid isms, and never dare to look  
On horrors. Down, force down the gnome and spook,  
And rush among the fields, the tasseled ways,  
The greening grots, where beauty's all ablaze,  
And life outbabbles like a grottoed brook.  
So, turn your shoulder. Drive crowned Satan back.  
And crown alone the god of love and peace ;  
Pile high the flowers along life's winding track,  
And crown with all the loveliness of Greece  
Your home, your fireside, and thy shrine will be  
Lovelier than emeralds of antiquity !

## XX.

I said in mine own heart : O go to now !  
For mirth shall prove thee, and sweet pleasure. And  
He found it vanity. Take, belov'd, my hand,  
And let me lead thee with thy noble brow  
To quiet pleasures, rosy mirth ; endow  
Thee with sweet love ; the Spanish saraband,  
Or stately minuet, or dance on sand  
Of seashores, be as pleasures, I avow !  
Since I would have the golden lyre, the lute  
That beauty touched, the stringèd harp ; for mirth  
Is mine. I'm not a preacher tall and mute,  
But blessèd being God has made for earth,  
Its wholesome joys ; and love I beauteous spring,  
Mine own true heart will crown me like a king !

## XXI.

And laughter's mad ? And mirth what doeth it ?  
My laughter keeps me sweet ; and mirth ? Ah me !  
I give thee gloom, and death, the moaning sea ;  
But laughter, mirth, I cannot spare a bit ;  
A thousand bumpers I will drink to wit,  
A thousand beakers drain ; and I will be  
By laughing waters, full of joys, and see  
An Eden, build me castles where I sit.  
For hear me, pessimist, there's not a woe,  
An unremembered grave, but I would clothe  
In loveliness ! Let every floweret blow ;  
Strike down the weeds of doubt, for these I loathe ;  
And bury woes in garbs of loveliness,  
Yea, clothe them ever with life's wedding dress.



## XXII.

I sought to give myself to wine ; I built  
     Me houses grand, great works I made, that I  
     Might see what should be good for men.   And, ay!  
 He planted vineyards ; boys in figured kilt,  
 And Bacchus lads, wine-bearers ; bossèd hilt  
     On rare Damascus blade, and elf and fay,  
     And music-boys in many a roundelay,  
 He might have had, and yet his wine had spilt.  
 For all the gold of India pilèd high,  
     Or eagle diamonds flashing like the stars  
 In winter skies, had not sufficed.   For I  
     Know Peace ! She's found beside the milking bars,  
 And not where temples rear their froned art,  
 For these delight the eye, but not the heart !

## XXIII.

He made him orchards, gardens ; luscious fruit  
     O'erweighted many a tree, and bellied grapes  
     Blushèd in purple splendor, greening capes  
 In viny textures spread above ; and mute  
 Waters soft mirrored treetops ; spiral chute,  
     And curvèd strait, and curious-made escapes  
     For water, vines in old fantastic shapes,  
 Made his new kingdom, yet it did not suit !  
 For nay !   He had no wine of gladness.   Eye  
     And heart were not united.   Method, yea !  
 Method was in his madness.   Fie and fie  
     For him !   He might have livèd to this day  
 And he had been dear earth's unhappy wight,  
 A little pleased, but happy ?   Ah, not quite !



## XXIV.

And pools of water he did get, that trees  
And vines and herbage he might have, for life  
To him would be a passing dream. The strife  
Of kingdoms vexed him not; no rarities,  
Nor dainties, with their trite disparities  
Or disaffections; but the pruning knife  
Every false tree should feel, till rare and rife  
Earth glory he would worship on his knees!  
But Love he knew thee not! And wreathèd Peace,  
Your A. B. C. he never learned; for gold  
And glitter, and the glimmering things of Greece  
And Rome, or rare exotics from the wold  
Of England blinded him. Satiety came  
To him. Today we do not know his name!

## XXV.

And yet he got him servants; maidens fair  
As angels are he got. Great cattle, too,  
Nibbled his grasses. Yearling calves did loo  
In o'erabundance. Any Cræsus there,  
Or far, was never richer. And I swear  
Solomon in all his glory, yea! to you  
I say, was never greater. Through and through  
The land he hunted, seeking all things rare.  
Ne'er greater king reigned o'er Jerusalem!  
And yet, O Preacher! crowned with carcanet  
Of pearls of price, an envied diadem  
Of glory, where's the beggar you have met  
Whose footstep was not lighter? whose leal soul  
Had not its own Venitian barcarolle?

## XXVI.

He gathered silver, gold; and of the kings  
    Around, all treasures that peculiar were  
    To such, he gathered. Nothing did deter  
Him; for this man would have all earthly things,  
And maids of beauty with their sparkling rings  
    Of love; and singers rare, and lutes that stir  
    The harmonies within us. Juniper  
In whorls of threes, and knot that flies and sings.  
And yet was woe across his fields; his house  
    A palace e'en, was not a Paradise;  
He envied men; and e'en the little mouse  
    Nibbling forbidden meal. Yet handsome Nice  
With whirling dust, or any city far,  
Had been to him a brighter rising star.

## XXVII.

So I was great. My God! And yet he cried:  
    Vanity! O build me pleasure-houses rare  
    As Aidenn, and a fabric make me fair  
As Barberini Palaces; and dyed  
In dyes of gods, new osier baskets; wide  
    As love or heaven raise my castle there,  
    And make me pontifical, and my prayer:  
O this is all for which I sigh, have sighed!  
But, happy builder, architect divine,  
    Thy structure lacketh in its chiefest part!  
It has the arabesque, the curvèd line,  
    But O 't is cold. It lacks a human heart!  
And so I turn me to my cottage home,  
And love will king me like a king of Rome.

## XXVIII.

His heart rejoiced. But list his varied tale  
Of interchanging joys. His eyes desired ;  
And craved his heart ; and so to him transpired  
A tale worth telling. But, ah me ! a wail,  
A rich man's sigh, comes o'er the intervale  
Where tropic roses bloom. He had aspired  
To all things meet. But now he has retired  
To arbor nook. But care has made him pale.  
And yet how great he was ! All maids of song,  
And instruments attuned rare, and bards  
Of genius, aye ! a multitude, a throng.  
Of rosy-footed joys, and flowers from yards  
Of Eden flockèd round ; and yet he said :  
All's vanity ! Better far that I were dead.

## XXIX.

And then I looked on all the works my hands  
Had wrought, and all my labors. But, ah me,  
Ah me ! He found no pleasure. O'er the sea  
A ragged sailor starteth home. The bands  
Of love, a mother's ; and the golden strands  
Of love, a sweetheart's, draw him, make him free  
Of spirit, and he smiles. His bended knee  
Is holy as he strikes the shining sands.  
And he was poor, but richer than a king,  
And he was rich, but poor as poor could be,  
For one alone the whole year long was spring,  
For one the days went tossing like the sea  
On rocky shores ; since one had bargained for  
His peace, the other's came by natural law.

## XXX.

And madness, wisdom, folly. These to him  
Were potent. But O such discouragement  
In all his life. Had he a man's intent  
Who loveth love, and God, and genii dim  
Are never floating o'er him black and grim  
In midnight's solemn hour, he had not bent  
With gilded woe. And, ah! he had not lent  
His goodliest days to folly's nacent whim.  
And yet he saw his life mistake; so, ay!  
More bitter grew his bitterness; no thing  
As wholly new as life could money buy:  
All things had been; in fall and purple spring  
He found no newness. Thousand years before  
As kingly kings had done his doings o'er.

## XXXI.

His dust may be my valid self. But I  
Am speaking from a heart that loveth gold  
That it may clothe the poor, not build me old  
High turret castles, that the passer-by  
Will halt and worship, as beneath the sky  
It glimmers to the morning. O'er the wold  
I've seen me catafalques, and bells have tolled  
For what? Alas! for rich man that did die.  
Oh give me bags of gold, the wealth of Ind;  
But give me sweet Valhalla maidens, yea!  
To scatter my great wealth. For I had sinned  
Against myself, had beggars by the way  
Seen useless millions in my strained purse.—  
But don't misunderstand me in my verse.

## XXXII.

O great ecclesiarch, I envy thee  
Thy wisdom! Folly had a reason, nay!  
And darkness; a great governor or Bey  
In Turkish lands; the earth; and roaring sea  
In its eternal restlessness; the bee  
On wayside flowers; and in the shining way  
Of love, bride-garlands. Preacher, yea and yea,  
Thou sawest all, but peace flew far away.  
With dirty urchins, one, and two, and four,  
I've seen a beggar king upon this throne  
Of love and home, suggestions of that shore  
Where life's eternal, not a tare is sown!  
So who will tell me wealth means happiness?  
That it will clothe us like a papist's dress?

## XXXIII.

And so the earth-fool is as I? We die  
The death of life; but I am wiser far;  
O'er him I am as some resplendent star;  
Some shining glory; gemmed tiaras lie  
Close at my feet; the pageants passing by  
Are unto me; that gaudy chariot car  
With trumpets blown and songs, sweeps down afar,  
For I am king, and likened to Most High!  
But no procession passeth for the fool;  
And yet the pageant's soon forgot, the herse  
With tasseled horses; in the wayside pool  
Throw veiny pebble; such the rich man's verse!  
The rich and poor have each the same earth breath,  
But who shall draw the line between their death?

## XXXIV.

The high and low are soon forgot, unless  
 A touch of heaven does link us unto Him !  
 For I, and hear me, tho' the thing be dim,  
 Dare say in all this age's worldliness,  
 There is a God ! So don thy spotless dress,  
 And dare be brave where armèd Doubt is grim,  
 And isms ; for Heaven is no new poet's whim,  
 But fact ! So, bow the knee, and dare confess.  
 For look ye in the lives of infidels,  
 And look ye in the lives of those that doubt ;  
 The first is but a life of sad farewells,  
 The second, very lamps of life are out ;  
 But he who hopes beyond the mouldered tomb,  
 Sees Him of Olivet across the gloom !

## XXXV.

And so he hated life ; for vanities  
 Upstartèd here and there, and greivous were  
 His works to him, and like a whippèd cur  
 He skulked in thought. The salt unresting seas  
 Were not more restless. Wine-cups to the lees  
 His lips had quaffed. Valkyrian, e'en her  
 Of Odin, spear-mark made, and like a bur  
 It harrassed him and took away his ease.  
 But blame him not, for life had taught him ; say,  
 Was ever wiser ? Life to him had been  
 A learnèd lesson. Had he gone astray  
 In doubt, he had not touched the carvèd kin  
 To holy song ; but God had made him rich  
 In goods, though Time hath left no marble niche !

## XXXVI.

He knew not if a wise man or a fool  
Would reign o'er all his great estates ; and so  
He moaned. Where lilies turned their whited blow  
To God, he stood with folded arms. The cool  
North breezes touched his cheek. Sevastopol  
Had less contention. In a dream of woe  
He stood, but every grass-blade seemed his foe ;  
His endless sea had dwindled to a pool.  
He caused his heart despair. His labor vain  
It seemed, and all his goodly acres round  
Seemed folly, since he soon must cross the main,  
Be buried in the churchyard's sodden ground ;  
I venture tears outglistened in his eye,  
With wealth so much, at thought he soon must die.

## XXXVII.

His days were sorrow, and his travail grief,  
His heart no rest. And yet 'twas best to eat  
And drink, be merry. These to him were sweet  
Savor to his sad plight. But bordered leaf,  
And broken stone are trite. Yet, Time, the thief,  
Has stolen name and fame. The winds repeat  
The funeral dirge. In spring or summer's heat,  
We guess his early history, for 'tis brief.  
A wise man wrote Ecclesiastes. Stave  
Of requiem had never been so sad ;  
Ah ! we hunt vainly for the Preacher's grave ;  
For e'en his gilded name and all he had,  
Are perished ! Yet how little do we seem  
Before the greatness of this man ! I dream !

## XXXVIII.

Yea, dream and dream and dream. But, ah to me  
Cometh the thought : All things have seasons. There's  
A time to live, to die. The ripened pears  
Are mellowed to their fall. Eternity  
Is wide as mercy. Dread adversity,  
And death have seasons. Climb life's weary stairs,  
And at the top is death. A time for cares,  
And love and wine and glories unto thee.  
A time to kill, a time to heal, to weep  
O'er death's intrusion ; time to laugh and mourn,  
For life hath levels, and her roads are steep.  
The heart will weary, every soul be torn !  
But hope is radiant, above all woe  
It spanneth ever like an endless bow.

## XXXIX.

A time to get, a time to lose, to weep ;  
And yet is life worth living. Pretty flowers  
Are strewn upon the grave of babes, and bowers  
Of fragrance rare are made for them. Why keep  
Such sacred trait ? Because you know the sleep  
That binds their loveliness, will break in hours  
Not far to be, tho' now the black cloud lowers.  
And death o'ertakes thy baby ere it creep.  
And yet a time to love, and now if ever :  
For never is a holy mother's heart  
So sorely touched as when death does dis sever  
Her from her newborn babe. The tear will start,  
E'en when the flowers have faded on its grave ;  
But God that took him, and 'twas God that gave.



## XL.

A time for war, a time for peace. But hear :  
O love thy neighbor as thyself. Let strife,  
And battled field go by the wall. The knife  
Of internecine bitterness, the spear  
Of tasseled knights be buried. Let the ear  
Hear village hautboy, and the air be rife  
With gladsome music. Lead the flowery wife  
To scenes of loveliness, and glad the year.  
Put flowered housings on thy steed, and ride  
To tune of drum and fife ; but let thy battle  
Be for sweet peace. The tally-ho with bride  
Head the procession. Let no musket rattle  
On hostile field, and crown with olive leaf  
The whole broad land, and place a rose on grief.

## XLI.

Hear : Everything is beautiful in its  
Own season. Firstlings of the flock, the herd  
In meditative days. Let lucent word  
Go forth for hope. For time so softly flits  
Across our lives in its new parceled bits,  
It seems the flitting of a robin-bird,  
A zephyr that a faded leaf has stirred  
In winter nooks. But go where beauty sits.  
For beauty is the queen of every land ;  
Love all things fair ; love not the sombre weeds  
Of mourning. Wipe the tear, and with the hand  
Of kindness, and to the tune of reeds,  
Lead in all loveliness, and all things fair,  
And veil with flowerets every home's despair.

## XLII.

I saw the place of judgment. Ah ! 't is well :  
The good man's judged already. Only fear  
Is to the wicked. Be ye of good cheer,  
And smooth the wrinkles from thy face. I tell  
Thee He is coming ! Let no infidel  
Dethrone thy hope ; for even he on mere  
Of death, will look to God with falling tear,  
And Jesus' name be in his last farewell.  
Judge men by deeds, and not by bandied word ;  
Let sense prevail, and he that takes thy hope,  
Forget his name. Go seek the singing bird  
In pastures new ; climb up the flowery slope  
That leads to heaven, and dare be true and brave,  
E'en at the open mouth of thy child's grave.

## XLIII.

The beast and I the same earth breath ? And yet  
I dare be more, dare imitate the One  
Who made the stars, the slave, the Scythian Hun  
Who conquered old Pannonia ; who set  
The rainbow in the sky ; who'll not forget  
The sparrow in its fall ; who sent his Son  
To die for us. Dare do as He hath done,  
And rise o'er beasts like towering minaret.  
For e'en tho' death should be the end, 'tis better  
To rise with glory like a star, and shine  
With splendor. Dare to break the rusting fetter  
That binds our lives to doubt. Oh be divine,  
And when the last great hour shall come to thee,  
Thy earth-reward be hope, not vanity !

## XLIV.

Yea, all will turn to dust. But of the pure  
Are lilies made. But dust to dust ! Be wise  
As serpents ; 't is the spirit on emprise  
Of valor, rising like an incense sure  
Of God ! White Galatea on earthy tour  
Thro' moulders' mind, before a thousand eyes,  
Was lifeless in her clay. Snap not the ties  
That bind. Be wary of the Fauns that lure.  
Fling hope and love to every home ; let joy  
Dance nimbly, timbrel sound, and fiddle play,  
And morris-dances come, and maiden coy,  
And crimson sky, join in with roundelay,  
Till every heart is full of gladness, hours  
Go by like fairy's dream among the bowers.

## XLV.

Yea, better is an handful with a heart  
Of quietness, than both hands full, with woe,  
And discontent ; so make amends with foe  
And enemy, unselfish be in art  
That comes of wealth. Give each poor beggar part,  
And sleep shall come to thee ; since as ye sow,  
So shall ye reap ; and such a sleep, I know,  
Will come to thee as babe's in crowded mart.  
For peace and sleep and happiness are more  
Than gold, than hoarded wealth ; for riches oft  
Annoy the night. Stand on the rocky shore  
Of ocean, beacon banner hold aloft  
To threat'ed ship, and such a peace to thee  
As gold has not this side eternity.

## XLVI.

Go 'mong thine orange groves, thy vineyards rare ;  
    Pick purple clusters, fling them to the boy  
    With knee-frayed pants ; and set life's rosy joy  
A-dancing. Pluck the mellow, yellow pear  
For gift to rosy maid with golden hair  
    In wavy ripples ; to Jack Tar : Ahoy !  
    Come feast, Jack Tar ! Forget the old bell-buoy,  
And breakers, and our pristine homage share.  
For giving makes a man. And he is king  
    Who's king of self. This life is but a span ;  
If some to spare, outdo the blooming spring  
    In glad abundance. Laurel old King Pan,  
And make him play a rural ditty sweet  
As love, and all the zephyrs will repeat.

## XLVII.

Put spangles in her hair ; twine chains of gold  
    Around her neck, embroider every doubt  
    With starry loveliness ; throw each hand out  
With gladsome fullness ; dance across the wold  
Among the daisies ; let all stories told  
    By sweet new dabsters all along life's route,  
    Be told again ; and kiss away the pout  
Of beauty, and joys will be manifold.  
I'm here to laugh and not to cry. The tear,  
    Ah me ! let teardrops come from happiness ;  
Have hope. Don't make this life a funeral bier,  
    But clothe thyself with joy and loveliness ;  
And fill the whole great world with gladsome song,  
And shower with flowers the world's great surging throng.

## XLVIII.

I'm sick of sadness. Tell me of delights  
In shady nooks, and take me bosky ways  
Of dewy freshness, where the lightsome fays  
Dance on the green in cloudless starry nights,  
With merry lads and lassies, pursy wights  
In life's gray prime, where song and voweled lays  
Sweeten and harmonize the soul; for days  
Are flitting fast. So, come! Enjoy the sights.  
Make gardens; bury up the earth in flowers  
Of beauty, garlands make as nattily  
Arranged as bridy dreams; and laurel hours,  
And minutes, seconds, and as prettily  
As ever flowery bride; for hear me now,  
I'd place a crown on every being's brow.

## XLIX.

For once you lose desire; ah me, ah me!  
The grasshopper shall be a burden, things  
That once were thy delight, will take the wings  
Of morning; and thy friends will be to thee  
As naught; for now thou thinkest of the Sea  
'Twixt Him and thee; and other summers, springs,  
Are nothing now! Now nothing pleasure brings,  
But, sans desire, from earth you'd gladly flee.  
For now like throneless patriarch of Rome,  
Your mind is busy with the future state,  
Because thou goest soon to thy long Home,  
And dear old memories cannot make you wait;  
For earth is fading like a bitter dream,  
But e'en thro' death thou seest the great throne gleam!

## L.

The son of David, he hath said these things  
Of beauty, wisdom, to another time,  
Now faded out like some old poet's rhyme  
That echoed with a great heart's questionings  
Of busier life and death, when other springs  
And winters hoar, in far and elder clime,  
Were pregnant with the great God music-chime  
That only the divinest poet sings.

And yet today a new world scans the pages  
Of gray old life, to gather from their lore  
And spoils of years, the mystery of the ages  
That only on that far unknowable Shore  
Is sure revealed. And yet we may not grope,  
For, at the end of every life is Hope!

## LI.

To some this life is full of vanities;  
To others rainbows span from shore to shore;  
And one may mourn his love, his lost Lenore;  
And one may fill his life with charities;  
And two may wed and find Idalian Dees;  
And one may walk alone and bravely soar  
Across the mountains; others may adore  
The Being smiling over sapphire seas.  
But, high or low, no theologic doubt,  
When grimy death draws near, can take our hope;—  
For, hear: 'Tis hard to put our God-lamp out,  
E'en though in bitter darkness we may grope;  
Since over all our life's great weal and woe  
Ever, forever spanneth heaven's bright bow!

## LII.

And so the Preacher may not have a grave,  
No mausoleum of Carrara stone;  
And yet the ages heard his great voice tone,  
Tho' poet sing his sad funereal stave  
As over one who lived. So, do not rave;  
For though he sleepeth in white death alone,  
Nor any note of lyre or voiced phone,  
Still let the pleasant grasses o'er him wave.  
His golden words are ours. But vanity  
Shall fade away like some distorted dream  
Of Hades, and across his widening sea  
We still shall sail to him, the bright white gleam  
Upon our sails, reflect the loveliness  
Of his great life that came from God to bless.

## LIII.

One generation passes; graves are wide  
And yawning. Yet, and yet the bridegroom comes  
Arrayed with beauty. Birds still peck the crumbs,  
And like a rainbow cometh life's new bride,  
And with a rosy in the eventide  
A little ditty or a carol hums,  
And Cupid does his hymeneal sums,  
And smiles between them when the knot is tied.  
So, generations go, but others come;  
And these will pass like panoramic dream;  
And yet the earth remains. The busy hum  
Of life is in the valley. Yet the stream  
Of death is ever winding to the grave;  
But even there, let's sing our life's best stave!

## LIV.

For singing makes the glory of the sky  
Even more glorious, gives a rare new song  
To busy earth, and glads the passing throng  
With reminiscent ecstasy; for I  
Would add a tint, a hue, a trancing dye  
To every field, and touch the golden gong  
To lyric melody, the fiddle plang  
And pling, as life's procession passeth by.  
So, come fair nymphs, and maids of Plato love,  
And lads and lassies full of music rare;  
Descend ye glowing Nine, while stars above  
Twinkle in beauty, and the cooling air  
From southern climes, soft woos our willing cheek  
Till we are pure as stone-entranced Greek.

## LV.

The sun will rise, and yet he will go down  
And leave a glory on the western hills,  
A pure white loveliness upon the rills,  
And in a farewell twilight to the town,  
Slow fade in beauty. Not a passing frown,  
But wreathed in smiles: for over woes and ills  
I'd spread a texture lovely, wove in mills  
Of gods, and coroneled by flowery crown.  
For I would add a color to the bow  
That spans the storm, a hue to lilies white  
In odorous valleys: and with Cupid go  
To music-lands, and 'neath the German night,  
Lit up by stars, cry out: "Another song!  
Fill up the glad red beaker to the throng!"



## LVI.

The wind may sail away to southern vales  
Of sweet deliciousness, and not return ;  
But I will place a rosy on her urn,  
And let a teardrop fall where Zephyr wails  
Among her funeral lilies, say : "Sweet gales,  
Enwaft my love to her, and with the henn  
From Scottish Dees, and all her beauty turn  
Angelic, breathe upon my placid sails."  
For winds may go, and death may come, but I  
Shall grasp the promise of the clouds ; the tear,  
Ah me, that comes unbidden, and the sigh  
Shall pass away ; for faint and far, but clear,  
There shines a halo with a hope to me  
That spans across the great Eternity !

## LVII.

The streams may surge and join the great blue sea ;  
My ships with bellied sails may blow away ;  
My soaring lark may vanish with his lay,  
And yet my heart-song still remains to me ;  
For though the earth pass on, eternity  
Remains ; and though I own the earth today,  
'Tis nothing if the bright and starry Way  
Is hid, I cannot say : "I go to Thee !"   
For though I paint me splendors in my halls,  
And build me arches groined to the clouds,  
In marble basins have me waterfalls,  
I cannot hide from thee the clinging shrouds,  
But walk a living Superstition vast,  
Until the disembodied soul has passed !

## LVIII.

No man may utter all the thoughts that lie  
Hidden within his being ; and the ear  
Is still unsatisfied ; and year on year  
Goes unrewarded till his heart and eye  
Give up the quest, and earth and moonless sky  
Pass onward unrecorded ; yet as clear  
As clarion morn or lusty chanticleer,  
The Morn of morns shines out to you and I.  
But, will we learn? Ah me ! the golden god  
We build, and shining monuments upraise  
Against the stars ; the pontifical rod  
We kiss, and strut a king of passing days ;  
And yet a tinsel potentate, ah me !  
Of earth, but not the great Eternity.

## LIX.

My song is but a repetition ; I  
May strike the lyre, the voweled notes are dim  
In unremembered ages ; raise to Him  
A pæon of triumphal praise ; the sky  
In vaulted glory in that other by  
And by re-echoed it ; a spectre grim  
Arises from the past with every whim  
And trick, that last resolve to you and I.  
And yet is repetition sweet to me ;  
For thus I win my rosy back again,  
My ox-eye daisy down across the lea ;  
And spring will come and summer too, and when  
Old Winter comes to every soft retreat,  
I know that spring her beauties will repeat.

LX.

But, is it new? A Whitman grand and gray,  
 The good gray bard of Camden-side, essayed  
 A metre new in language great arrayed;  
 And so the world has lost a Poet's lay  
 That might have echoed to the farthest day;  
 For great Miltonic thoughts were there displayed,  
 With Emersonian grandeur. Muses prayed:  
 "O take us through the old accustomed way!"  
 But nay and nay, with language of a god,  
 A meaning vast as Avon's tragic bard,  
 The sceptre in his hand, Apollo's rod,  
 The good gray poet is uncrowned, unstarred!  
 And yet his numbers were a battle-ode;—  
 He was too vast for such an earth abode!

LXI.

There's no remembrance! In the elder times  
 Now unremembered, did the great God reign  
 In glory? was there such a Cuba? Spain?  
 A British empire? undiscovered climes?  
 The master verse? the bardling's halting rhymes?  
 Did hostile falchions glitter on the plain?  
 Were ever such disasters as the Maine?—  
 Upon our newest fad the ivy climbs!  
 And yet I would remember other days;  
 The old associations, bygone hours;  
 The old familiar faces, and the ways  
 Our fathers knew; go backward to the bowers  
 Where dewy love first told his new old tale,  
 And birds sang love to every intervale.

## LXII.

Yea, over Israel he was a king!

But who can point his place of sepulchre?

Ah! was it Solomon? I dare demur:

*Koheleth*! rise and end this questioning;

But through the winter and the passing spring

The silence is unbroken. Juniper,

Anemone, or e'en the bitter myrrh.

May know his grave, or birds that fly and sing!

"Yea, I was king o'er Israel!" O son

Of David?—But the voice is hushed for aye;

And yet, *Koheleth*, were you Solomon?

The god of wisdom in that elder day?

But Grotius denies it; wherefore we

To bandy or impeach his sovereignty?

## LXIII.

And though he sought all wisdom in the earth,

And in the great dividing sea, in lands

Beyond the sea, and where the golden sands

Exposed their granulations, where the birth

Of kings took place, and men of drink and mirth

Made merry nights, and gray old Morris bands

Danced light fandangos on the babbling strands,

He moaned his fate; for in his life was dearth.

And yet the great One reigning far, unseen,

The Ruler of the earth, he ever held

In highest estimation, more than queen

Or reigning king; and from the lore of eld

Brought magic splendors to enhance this One,

The Father who would give his only son.

LXIV.

Yet, Septuagint! his name we dare dispute  
 With lore of ages. Was he Persian? Where,  
 Where did he reign? And was he David's heir  
 Apparent to the throne? All tongues are mute;  
 No language such strange figures can compute;  
 And so the Maccabees may sway; for there  
 By Hartmann he is placed: and yet I dare  
 Name him the man the very heavens can suit.

For out of all his toil and moil and woe,  
 He rises like a star, and points on high,  
 The realm of peace, where Hope's o'erarching bow  
 Resplendent shines across the great wide sky,  
 And tells us if we penetrate the night,  
 Behind it all the great sun shineth bright!

LXV.

Accept the crooked things of life, and be  
 A happy ministrant to every ail;  
 Go pick the flowers beside the babbling vale;  
 Send out your ships upon the restless sea;  
 Plant shrub and vine and flower and cedar tree  
 On all thy slopes, and in the intervale  
 Place mirrored lake, and on it silver sail,  
 And romp with nature in her rarity!  
 For purity and nature's rare delights  
 Oft come of suffering; so weal and woe.  
 And bitter days, make pictures in the nights  
 With Titian moonbeams, and the gamboling doe  
 And swift gazelle; for hearts that are not tried  
 A many a lovely blessing is denied.

## LXVI.

Let knowledge, love and wisdom come to thee ;  
Let fine appreciation grace thy mind ;  
Find beauty in the meadow, and the wind  
That plays a ditty in old nooks ; agree  
With nature ; hold thy natal liberty  
For aye, and love the earth and be resigned  
To life, to all ; and once you are refined  
As gold, your life will babble like a Dee.  
For songs within the heart can never die :  
And e'en when death has come to thee and thine,  
The old songs will re-echo like a Wye  
On English meads, and coarser ones refine :  
The Cotter's Night in Burns's canty rhymes,  
Still echoes with the ingle's merry chimes.

## LXVII.

Wisdom and grief go hand in hand. We look  
On frescoed walls where art has reigned. We see  
The palace ships in freighted majesty ;  
We stand in wonder by some pearly brook ;  
We read old nature like an open book ;  
In awe we stand beside the great wide sea ;  
A crannied flower has piqued us ; far and free  
The winds have come from some deserted nook.  
A blade of grass has dashed our wisdom down ;  
A twittering bird has held our learning up ;  
We cannot cross our rural, native town,  
But mysteries shine within the daisy's cup ;  
So, wisdom gives a certain kind of grief ;  
I am dumfounded at a mouldered leaf !

## LXVIII.

But I will prove with mirth this world of ours,  
    With shining star and hornèd moon ; with bird  
    And flower, the lambkins and the pasture herd  
Feeding upon the slopes. So, Bacchus, towers  
Of grapes to thee ; come, Ida, to our bowers,  
    And we will sing the wine-song Bacchus stirred  
    To revelry, the juicy-tippèd word,  
With purple grapes distilling winy showers.  
Since mirth is mine ; I'll be a happy wight,  
    Tho' tasseled horses draw my lady's hearse ;  
For even then the stars will splash the night,  
    Since death has won an angel. Sweet and terse :  
"And death has ta'en her to the highest star !  
But death has ta'en her where the angels are !"

## LXIX.

And laughter, what of it ? 'T is savor rare  
    Of aching gout ; it is a poppy pill  
    To drowse you sweetly in a Lethe rill ;  
It drives the man of saddle-bags. So fair,  
So pouting sweet and softly debonair  
    It makes the rosy maid ; you pause to fill  
    Your life's best being, feast upon her still,  
Yea, feast upon her face, her sparkling hair.  
So, court the god of laughter ; woo the maid  
    Who smiles the whole year round ; be good to her ;  
For she 's a sylph in ecstasy arrayed ;  
    The lovely nightingale may sing and whir :  
The lark of morn may soar afar ; but she ?  
She 's Queen of everlasting Jollity !

## LXX.

And did I say I'd give myself to wine?  
 And say I'd pull the purple clusters down  
 From mossy nook? That I would hide my frown  
 In flushes of the grape? That wine's divine!  
 That it can beautify a friend of mine.  
 And make him finer than he is? Renown,  
 Imagined kingdoms it can make; can drown  
 The bitter soul, send boating on the Tyne.  
 So, pull the purple clusters! Drink not deep,  
 But just enough, my pard, to sweeten thee;  
 And just enough, perchance, to make thee leap  
 With joy. But, nay! The breakers of the sea  
 Are in the red-wine cup! So, have a care.  
 The red, red wine may turn thee to despair!

## LXXI.

I builded houses; I'd the wherewithal  
 To make a name on earth, a money-king;  
 A prince of princedom; gods should touch the string  
 On harp of gold; and archèd room and hall  
 Should echo music, till a drowsing thrall  
 With murmured meanings, birds with sparkling wing  
 In slumberous tune, should soft and drowsily cling  
 To pictured nook, to pictures on the wall.  
 But, ah! is tinsel beauty such to him?  
 Can money buy the dearest peace he craves?  
 I see a spectre disembodied, dim!  
 I see a sexton! Is he digging graves?  
 Alas, alas, can wine and money buy  
 God's kingdom? No! For I am ever I!



## LXXII.

O make ye orchards ; raise the lucious fruit ;  
Put borders on thy gardens ; train the vine  
On mossy arbor ; make old earth divine ;  
Place marble Cupids by a winding chute  
Linèd with flowers, and statues sculptured mute  
As new first love, uprear in tasty line,  
So poet eye, enraptured by the Nine,  
May find it Eden, rare and lush and cute.  
And yet is happiness within the heart ;  
You cannot win the bulbul's gladsome song  
In barrèd cage ; you bury dross in art  
Of Raphaels, yet this you is you ! The throng  
Can read your heart in every line ! Bright gold  
Can never cover sores or wrinkles old !

## LXXIII.

With artificial pools, the haunts of fish  
Of varied hue, you may enhance your place  
Of earthly habitation ; yet your face,  
The index of your mind, will show the wish  
Unfound ; thy goodly friends will come ;—but, psh !  
The vintner, where his vinelets interlace  
In lowly cottage, goes a better pace.  
And has contentment in his savory dish.  
So, spread your acres ; build your turrets high ;  
Make deer-parks ; have a dainty hound or so ;  
Make Michael splendors that shall glad the eye ;  
But still remember woe to you is woe,  
That though the purple cover with its art,  
It cannot hide the moanings of the heart !

## LXXIV.

Your servants may abound ; your herds may line  
 The everlasting hills ; your heart may swell  
 With natal pride, and life's new Christmas bell  
 May ring out gladsomely, and to the eyne  
 May come the love of flowers ; the curvèd sign  
 On marble bust of thee, (like rose in dell,)  
 May add a sweetness, though a faretheewell  
 Be in the odor, end in spillèd wine !

But, hoarded Wealth, has Peace enshrined thy form  
 In happy wreathlets ? Has thine ardent friend  
 Arrayed thee like the bow across the storm  
 In Springtime ? Do the colors softly blend  
 In unadornèd art ? O let me lead  
 To thatchèd cottage bordering on the mead !

## LXXV.

And you may gather silver, yellow gold  
 From hidden mines ; the stringèd harps may play  
 Old classic poems ; night may shine like day  
 In Oriental pallor ; citterns old  
 In unforgotten songs, in tune unfold  
 Their music, flower-boys wreathèd, join the lay.  
 Till many-voicèd maids, with cutest sway,  
 Come hying from the wood or English wold.  
 But, trainèd songsters, can you pipe a song  
 To hearts of gloom ? Can great magician's spell  
 Of rapt enchantment veil a single wrong  
 With fine delusion ? Come across the dell :  
 Her dress is scant ; but look down in her heart :  
 Her song is sweet, but innocent of art !

## LXXVI.

You may be great to outward eye ; the brook  
    May babble in your fields ; the sparkling trout  
    May shimmer in your pools ; the sloping route,  
The winding path may lead to osier nook  
O'er tillèd field. And yet I read your book  
    Of bordered gold ; but you have blotted out  
    Reality ! Cute gold-gods mime and pout ;  
Yet you are you ; you cannot hide that look !  
So, women, wine and tunèd lute can not  
    Disguise your self ; for when my lady fades,  
And wine-cups cloy, and softest lute has caught  
    Your, melancholy, little shining blades  
Of retribution pierce your callous heart ;  
For you are you yet, under all your art !

## LXXVII.

Your heart may dandle every joy. But, come  
    With me, a little runlet crosses here ;  
    And there, a natural lake is sparkling clear ;  
Beside the lilacs, where the bees may hum,  
A rustic grotto smiles ; with savory gum  
    Spruces are standing ; lusty chanticleer  
    Pipes out his clarion to the budding year,  
With bordering vine and tree and rustic plum.  
And in the midst a cottage. You and I  
    Would give our wealth for such a simple home  
Were peace included. But, ah me ! we sigh  
    Because we live in France instead of Rome ;  
Because our money will not buy us peace ;—  
But moss is on the monuments of Greece !

## LXXVIII.

But, is there profit in the chase for gold?  
The race is to the swift. A hundred years  
Will raze us to the dust. Alas! our tears  
Of life! what mean they? With our arms we fold  
A lovely child. A few short years and mould  
Is on her tomb. From every shadow peers  
A writhing face, and many a teardrop blears  
The page of life; and more when hearts are sold!  
So, fling your wealth in golden showers; lead love  
And joy and peace across your threshold; take  
A sip of nectar; stars will shine above;  
Throw out your ducats for the children's sake;  
Divide your gold with love; for it will be  
A bridge of flowers to Eternity!

## LXXIX.

So I was great. Ah! great in what? In lands?  
In cattle? sheep? I see a mother, she  
To me is great in ideality!  
He tunes his instruments; and noisy bands,  
With fifers, stamping feet and clapping hands,  
Are honoring his great glory. But to me  
A higher glory is that sovereignty  
That crowns a mother in her life's new sands!  
But greatness is a thing of taste, a whim  
That Fashion names. For one is crowned by Love,  
And one by Gold, and one by only Him  
Who moves the clouds. I see a star above;  
And is it some old dear departed guest  
Who dying said: "Thy will be done, thou blest!"

## LXXX.

And he indulged in every joy ; in art  
    With curvèd line ; in architecture grand  
    As time had seen ; in kine and fertile land ;  
In prancing stallions. Yet how fared his heart ?  
His curios from every foreign mart ;  
    His porcelains from distant shores, from strand  
    Unknown, were beautiful ; but hand in hand  
Two lads are happier with a broken cart !  
And yet was God an essence pure and fine  
    Amid his lavishments ; and tho' he cried :  
    "Vanity !" he felt the great One was divine,  
    And Him of Nazareth they crucified ;  
And yet his pleasure-houses grew apace,  
And were the rare embodiments of grace.

## LXXXI.

One sings his Annie Laurie, and is king ;  
    One pipes a ditty on an oaten reed  
    Beneath the stars ; another mounts his steed .  
And rushes on to fame. I cannot sing,  
And yet I'm happy with a fiddler's string  
    And bow. Some pluck the daisies in the mead ;  
    Some sit beneath the slanting sun and read  
The glories of the rainbow in the spring.  
For one hath pleasure in an ambling pad ;  
    And one takes pleasure in a boat at sea ;  
Another still is happier when he's sad,  
    And melancholy days are on the lea ;  
For Autumn odors are like scented breath  
To him. He loveth to commune with Death !

## LXXXII.

So, who shall say that I cannot be I?  
And who shall say that you shall not be you?  
One loves the rose; but I the mournful yew;  
Some sail with gas to find an arctic sky;  
And one is ruined by a sparkling eye;  
One loves the rose that's beaded in the dew;  
Another loves it faded! Skies are blue;  
And yet our puzzled life is "Why?" and "Why?"  
We never reach the goal we set. We soar  
Above the clouds. 'Twas but a freak of will:  
We are brave Nelsons when the breakers roar  
Against the adamant rock. The rill  
Has made a river going to the sea;  
But you are you, and we are simply we!

## LXXXIII.

But I will build a bridge of flowers to God;  
For earth shall pass away. I pay the toll  
To death, and die. But shall I lose my soul  
For fleeting earth? I love the goldenrod;  
I love the flower that decks the mouldering sod;  
I love to see Ambition reach his goal;  
I'm sad when Sidney Laniers hearses roll,  
And all my being crieth: "Maud, Maud, Maud!"  
So, here the gist: "O build for heaven and earth;  
O build thee mansions for the glowing skies  
Of Immortality; make second birth  
As pure as vestal love; sith he who dies  
A child of earth and heaven withal, may be  
A king of kingdoms in Eternity!"

## LXXXIV.

So, win this world, and dare be true and brave,  
Even when martial music rends the air,  
And people with a wild theatric stare  
Lose sanity. Earth is but a monstrous Grave!  
Ah me! our proudest flag may float and wave;  
But Bonapartes are thrown. We climb our stair  
With tinkling steps. And yet how oft Despair  
Is at the goal, and sings our funeral stave!  
And yet I'd grasp the very stars; for life  
Is larger to the curbless soul. He serves  
Who only stands and waits! But, in the strife  
I'd mingle. Genius is a mass of nerves  
In Poes! O me! to be without desire;—  
May Orphean hands retouch the broken lyre!

## LXXXV.

His hand has lost its cunning. Dumb and dead  
The great harp lies. No more the master touch  
Shall call the melody; yet his art was such  
The heavenly harmonies he seemed to wed  
In such a married cadence Orpheus shed  
A glory on his head. He wooèd much  
In youth and prime. But now his nerveless touch  
Is vain; for all his art had vanishèd!  
And yet he sang his swan-song: "O'er the Bar!"  
When Death was knocking at his being's door;  
He seemed to rise in glory like a star;  
The Muses took his pen. "Nay, nevermore!"  
And England's magic singer passed away;  
His ashes honor England's great Abbaye!



## LXXXVI.

But why palaver? Who can make a grain  
Of mustard? Yet we Ingersolls have dared  
To weigh the Universe! I had despaired  
Myself these years, had not a certain strain  
Of finite reason, told me o'er the main  
A Paradise is waiting! I'd not cared  
To live this life of earth had my mind shared  
A Voltaire's doubt! For with it life is vain.  
But people grasp at earth. Long in the night  
The candle burns, and man goes speeding on  
To what? An earthly phantom of delight  
That fadeth with the purple of the dawn;  
At death he'd have a pocket in his shroud!—  
To die like us he is almost too proud.

## LXXXVII.

Leave city walls and hie to rural vales;  
Leave business cares and come across to me;  
The city is a dull satiety;  
But come and jump with me the old moss rails;  
Let's gad like boys thro' dusky intervalles;  
For here is Nature clothed in rarity;  
And here is Nature's amplest liberty;  
The wildbirds chorus with a thousand gales.  
And then you'll think of God! For He alone  
Hath made the beechwood flower, the gadding vine  
In beauty's tangled nooks, and on the stone  
Placed mossy loveliness, while lavish wine  
From far ambrosial lands outsparkles red  
Where thousand vines have over-canopied.



## LXXXVIII.

And these are Intimations of the Land  
    Beyond the stars; since everywhere is God;  
    In meadow vale and waving goldenrod;  
In woods, and old fence flowers on every hand;  
The beechen tree with wildly woven strand,  
    Outdoing art in naturalness. The sod  
    With its commingled loveliness, where nod  
The wildflowers, by the Southern zephyrs fanned.  
And so my song is full of Intimations  
    Of Heaven, such as every heart may see  
In vale and valley, in the rare creations  
    Of God! And let me say in song to thee:  
"Win earth, and all thy heart may rightly crave;  
But win that other Life beyond the grave!"

## LXXXIX.

How beautiful is Lycidas in song!  
    How beautiful are flowers upon the walls  
    Of crumbling abbeys! What fresh coronals  
Has Nature placed upon the grave of wrong!  
Upon the grave of Pompeys once so strong  
    In glittering Imperialism! But calls  
    The blackbird by a Cæsar's ruined halls,  
And o'er their dust still tramps the Roman throng!  
For Cæsars only won the crown of earth;  
    They only wade thro' slaughter to a throne;  
The widow with her mite may win the birth  
    That crowns with everlasting life alone;  
For did she not give more than all the Jews?  
But he's not best who sits in costliest pews.

## XC.

In In Memoriam what beauty shines !  
     In Adonais how the thought expands  
     In beauty ! Lycidas in Milton hands  
 Is rival ; and the English laureate's lines  
 Still crowd them hard. For these are Malmsey wines  
     Of song to me. The grapes of many lands  
     Have made their nectarine. Love's golden strands  
 Have bound them. See him hidden in the vines !  
 And so the glory of the sky is here  
     In love's untrammelled song. For Muses nine  
 Caught splendors from the heavens above the mere ;  
     Put rhythmic numbers in the poet's line,  
 Till such the beauty in their pictured art  
 We tender love's best offerings of the heart.

## XCI.

Wisdom excelleth folly. Be ye wise  
     In preconceived work, and fleeting Time  
     Will give thee lore from Oriental clime  
 Where pearls may glitter to enraptured eyes ;  
 Where God's great sun in happy, vaulted skies,  
     Smiles graciously. And hear the onward chime  
     Of never-ceasing worlds. And yet the rhyme  
 Of His new Paradise still hear, since lies  
 Heaven forever at the end of life !  
     For though ye win the shekels of the gods,  
 And go about this world in purple, strife,  
     Contention, war, shall rage about thee ; sods  
 With Love's heroic blood shall still be red ;  
 But win the bay that crowns the Christian dead !

## XCII.

The Queen of England! Here is earthly glory;  
The Tsar of Russia! Here is earth renown;  
Our President may wear Imperial crown  
And still lose Heaven! Our Gladstone old and hoary  
Is crowned by Love! But Corsicans are gory  
In butchered blood! And hostile cannon drown  
The cry of Pity! Some are great in town;  
A Stevenson is great in tranced story!  
And yet I'd call ye from this vain Ambition  
To that great Moment when the highest King  
Must bow! For Love, and Life, and white Contrition,  
Are more than these! Yet, love the purple Spring;  
The vagrant Summer. But in loving them  
Lose not that never-fading Diadem!

## XCIII.

Go under cooling stars, and walk amid  
The quiet glooms, and solitary be;  
For I would have you touch Eternity  
Alone! Go seek the mouldering graveyard hid  
In tangled briar; not where doughty Cid  
Lies buried in his pomp, but where the tree  
And amorous vine, in wild serenity,  
Have made the only earthly pyramid!  
The tangled brushes cross the path; and here  
Are Death and old Neglect! There's not a friend  
To place a flower, no eye to drop the tear  
Of sympathy! But who can tell the end!  
For once was beauty nurtured here, the eye  
Of Pity mutely turning to the sky!

## XCIV. •

The mouldering stones make only trite appeal  
 To our humanity; and Memory  
 Has lost the chain, once Love and Purity  
 Welded with golden links. The zephyrs steal  
 In crooning lullabies; but can you feel  
 The touch of love? Some died in Chastity!  
 But who were they? And did they cross the Sea  
 Of jasper? Only Heaven can reveal!  
 But pause amid this Desolation. Here,  
 Mayhap, a king is buried, or an earl  
 Who wore the ermine. Who will shed a tear  
 Above their dust? Red amethyst and pearl,  
 Or nectar of the gods can never save;  
 Find Heaven, and conquer mystery of the Grave!

## XCV.

But read ye, if ye may, the fate of these;  
 They joined the grand Procession to the Grave!  
 A hundred years, and like an ocean wave  
 They vanish ever, and forever! Seas  
 Now roll between. But fall upon thy knees,  
 And while the waters of Oblivion lave  
 The shores of Memory, sing a quiet stave  
 To Death; for here he has his sovereignties!  
 And while ye kneel, O ask the willing Heart:  
 "Is Earth or Heaven my Principality?"  
 I do not curse thee, for I love thine art;  
 I love the real, great Reality  
 Of life. Yet earth shall crumple like scroll!  
 But, will you win it and lose your own soul?

## XCVI.

I love to hear the harp in quiet days ;  
    I love to hear the birds in jargonings  
    Of song ; the crows in guttural caws in Spring's  
New life ; I love to hear the blackbird's lays  
Among the wakening hills ; I love the ways  
    Of happy childhood ; and the whirring wings  
    Of migratory birds a memory brings  
To me of ever-vanished yesterdays !  
And yet I dream my dreams, and visions chase  
    Each other through the channels of delight  
That lead to Him ! For there I see His face  
    A shining glory ! Far across the night  
My vision is a vision unto me  
Where reigns the Nazarene of Galilee !

## XCVII.

I love the earth ; how beautiful to me  
    No muse can tell ; I love the babbling brook  
    That stealeth to the sea ; I love to look  
At emerald breakers dashing from the sea  
In organ cannonade with majesty ;  
    I climb the hills, and like an open book  
    I read the page of Nature. On his crook  
A shepherd leans in rapt tranquillity.  
And these are pictures that have chained my heart  
    To earth ! And sometimes comes the thought to me :  
"How can this Heaven be lovelier ?" For art  
    And Nature, masterly and curiously,  
Have made our earth so beautiful, I say :  
"Can Paradise be fairer in that Day ?"

## XCVIII.

But, draw the bow, and be a citizen  
Of wholesome pleasure ; dare to win the love  
Of minstrel maid. And yet the stars above  
Are looking on thee. Be a denizen  
Of Faery. Yet, beyond your mortal ken  
A star is shining ; and a spotless dove  
Is winging. Toss the gem and tinsel glove ;  
Pour out the ink, and lay aside the pen !  
For, lackaday, the world has won your heart !  
Ye cannot serve two masters ! So, have done  
With acting ! Worship 'gen the sculptor's art :  
The fashioned jewel, and the diamond won  
From kingdoms in the earth, and drink the wine  
Of Bacchus, putting off the One divine !

## XCIX.

And yet these holy Intimations are  
The true outpourings of a human heart ;  
I would not clothe them in adorned art ;  
But ere you cross this life's great Harbor Bar,  
O find that fadeless, everlasting Star  
That shines in Heaven ! And then the wingèd Dart  
Will lose its sting ! Since in the crowded mart  
E'en Death will come, and Life's funereal car !  
For, such is life. But life is bounded by  
Death ! Heaven alone will never pass away ;  
So, win this world ; but win across the sky  
That other World ; and when the Judgment Day  
Shall come, a crown of glory shall be thine,  
Beautiful and fadeless from a Hand divine !

## C.

Turn down the glass that held the sparkling wine  
Of pristine days; eschew the ballet now,  
And take the wine-crown from thy wrinkled brow;  
For these are days that you should be divine  
In heart; for you are marked by facial line  
Of cards and dice, by cares that make you bow  
In gloomy attitude. The great Ship's prow  
Is nearing its last port across the brine!  
So, let the glad days be a memory gone  
In faded mists. Forget the glittering bar  
With portly tender, and sail surely on  
To that great Haven beyond the western star;  
For now the glory of the earth is past!  
'Tis Heaven or Hell you have to face at last!

## CI.

The moon has smiled upon thy face; the skies  
Have arched their welken over thee; the stars  
Have shone upon thee with translucent bars  
Of light; but soon a mist will cross thine eyes  
Forever! To his home the eagle flies  
On buoyant wing; and e'en the pasture bars  
Are just at home! But you that conquered Mars  
Are homeless! Out of reach thy heaven lies!  
So, close the game; throw down the loaded dice;  
A knock is on thy door at last; for Death  
Is no respecter! Rules of coarse or nice  
He knoweth not. A pestilential breath,  
And weeds and lovely flowers together lie;—  
In losing Life the very soul shall die!



## CII.

Once Love and you went hand in hand, and all  
The skies were flushed with Hope's new radiant smile ;  
You sailed for aye to some Hesperian isle  
Of song and fruit. No interposing wall  
Of Eden harrassed. Earth thy banquet-hall  
Of flower and jest and wine. With snare and wile  
Only sweet Eros came in prankèd style  
Of new delights, with many a winding mall.  
But all has changed. The light has faded out ;  
The earth seems like a ball of rolling mist ;  
At last you've ta'en the never-swerving route  
Of life. But Love and you have met and kist  
The last lip-kiss. And yet I'd hold out hope ;  
For e'en at death the Gates of Pearl are ope !

## CIII.

You may be sitting at your humble meal ;  
You may be dining with a king in state  
With glittering crown of gold ; but Fate, e'en Fate,  
Will dog thy steps. The rosy red may steal  
Across the pallor of thy cheeks ; the peal  
Of tinkling glasses half and half translate  
The music of thy love : yet added rate  
And rate, thy coming doom will half reveal.  
So, when the Angel comes to thee with scroll  
Of faded years, e'en then forget thy gold,  
Thy loves, and from the ruins save thy soul ;  
Since now desire has gone ; thou art too old  
To care for petty gewgaws of the earth ;  
Now Heaven is beauteous as a flower at birth.



## CIV.

And yet one glimpse, one faint Auroral flush  
Of Life, is all the hoping heart requires  
To toil along to death ; for such desires  
Are heralds of delight ; and fruits are lush  
And ripe, and life's new rosy's modest blush  
Is on the cheek, and bands of voicèd choirs  
Sing seraph songs, and all along the wires  
Come song-tones like sweet bells in even's hush.  
And yet a throw of chance ; for one transgression  
Leadeth across the Styx. Thy cap and bells  
May be a safeguard ; for the fool's confession  
Is surely : "Crown sometimes a doom foretells !"  
Temptation is to those of finer mould ;  
Beauty is sought, and beauty can be sold !

## CV.

He plays life's ditty on a mellow flute ;  
One plays it with a cymbal and a gong ;  
A Burns has sung it in a Highland song ;  
Another in an attitude as mute  
As statues dreams it. Down a little chute  
A brook is scampering to a busier throng  
In cities far, perhaps to some Hong Kong ;  
But who another's song would substitute ?  
For you would still be you, and I e'en I ;  
My song may be from out a simple heart ;  
And you may love in cedar shades to lie ;  
Another still love art for only art ;  
But what your song, no matter, high or low,  
Some aimless fingers o'er the strings may go.

## CVI.

The clock will strike ; but let it strike at last  
The final stroke. Why should we care for this ?  
We turn our lips to win the farewell kiss  
Of love. Perhaps a kindly hand will cast  
A spray of lilac on our casket. "Hast  
Thou loved us ?" In the Aidenn vales of bliss  
The question may re-echo. Things amiss  
May then be righted when our graves are grassed.  
And yet we lay the old coat by ; the boot  
Is wrinkled, and the clothes are frayed ; and we  
Are worn and running down ; but let them hoot  
Their owl-notes to the moon, a jasper sea  
Has snowy barque awaiting at the dock, '  
And heaven is ours no matter what o'clock.

## CVII.

I do not know ? Go pull the briar and rose ;  
Go win the sailing lily on the stream ;  
And take thy little meed of salt and dream  
Thy nights away, for these are God. Night knows  
Her crowned white queen ; and every flower that blows  
On wayside fells. But ope the magic Ream  
Of Life. Thy name is writ thereon ! The gleam  
Of Paradise is where the west sun goes.  
For you have won the radiance of the stars  
Of white Eternity ! And though the clock  
Strike three or one, to you the silver bars  
Are shining. You have heard the final knock ;  
And crowned for that Valhalla of the skies  
Thy death is sleep to thine immortal eyes.

## CVIII.

At old Uxmal palatial ruins lie  
    In glorious crown of weeds and gadding vines;  
    And yet a perished hand hath made these lines  
Of ancient days; at Teocalli high  
The mouldering stones are piled.   The song, the sigh  
    Of winds are here.   The red Lepantó wines  
    Have drowsed their memory.   And the lichen signs  
Of old Decay are on them, far or nigh.  
  
The work of man shall perish from the earth;  
    And yet he buildeth better than he knows  
Who builds a temple for that higher Birth  
    Beyond the sun and stars; and orange bows  
Shall span above him; and amrita tree,  
Shall bloom for him beyond mortality!

## CIX.

This higher criticism; ah!   What of it?  
    Is God the object of their search?   Is He  
    The object solely?   On a chartless sea  
I fear they sail.   What one can spare a bit,  
A shred of His great book?   Come, go and sit  
    At Jesus' feet!   And let the Bible be;  
    The more you tamper, more the Deity  
Will disappear; the dove of hope may flit.  
  
'Tis well enough.   We cannot spare the whale,  
    Nor Jonah; they are sacred to the Book!  
Take these, as soon destroy the rended Veil,  
    Saint Luke, or John, or James; since as you look  
In these, a hundred things may meet the gaze  
That puzzle you.   God's ways are not our ways.

## CX.

Accept the rose ; who put the fragrance there ?  
And see that wildflower by the winding wall ;  
Who placed it there ? that ivy crowning all  
In dainty amorousness ? Her cheek is fair  
As fragrant flowers, a wreath of golden hair  
Vaileth her face. Are not these wonders ? Saul  
Did miracles. Moss and ivy cover hall  
And palace. Wonders meet us everywhere.  
A blade of grass has mysteries for me ;  
An apple-blossom typifies a thought  
To some. The great commotion of the sea  
O'erwhelms my heart, and therefore I am not  
The one to take a single word away  
From that great Book of books ! 'Tis nay, and nay !

## CXI.

We often build to beauty with our thought  
Aerial habitations of delight ;  
We place our statues in them marble white,  
Till everything to beauty has been wrought ;  
The pillared roof, the walls with silver bought  
In foreign lands ; the stars that gem the night  
Have lent their lustre, till a happy wight  
We sit, for all our fancy has been caught.  
So, build these happy fabrics of the brain ;  
Dream dreams and have thy visions of the night ;  
Be herald of a merry-footed train  
Of joys ; but, never let it leave the sight  
That all this loveliness will sometime fade,  
And that the last earth-tune may soon be played.

## CXII.

One loves his German coat of arms for aye ;  
Another Russian ; and Italian blood  
Would flow for Italy ; and in the mud  
The hostile foe would trail our Flag. The lay  
Of Highland clans would sound in Scottish fray  
With pibroch notes. The roses red may bud  
And bloom on all alike. Some Captain Dudd  
May show his stars ; but I am I that Day !

So, empty honors, what are they ? We strut  
With titles and a golden uniform ;  
But wipe away the battle's grime and smut ;  
Forget the tattered flag, the leaden storm  
Of strife ; will any gloried shoulder star  
Be passport sure at that eternal Bar ?

## CXIII.

In archæology of Jewish lands,  
Egyptian or Arcadian, the bard  
May delve ; the scholar here is crownèd, starred ;  
Antiquities are but the golden sands  
Of Yukon vales to him ; his velvet hands  
Are soiled by mould ; he'd give his dearest pard  
To delve in spoils in some Assyrian yard  
Of old, where not a mausoleum stands.  
But these are earthly loves, the intimations  
Of sure obliteration and old Death ;  
For all the martial, pantomimic nations  
Of earth have marched with unabated breath  
To that eternal silence of the Grave,  
Where only life's defeated banners wave.

## CXIV.

Great aqueducts in Roman lands may flow  
    With waters of the gods; but best of these,  
    Is great Campagna round old Rome; are trees  
Amid its ruined glories? Once the bow  
Of happy skies o'erarchèd here. I know  
    Of Asia, Spain and Greece and France, but glees  
    Of wildbirds echo in their ruins. Lees,  
With mournful waves, sing glories long ago.  
So, touch Divinity, and span the years  
    Of Time; for Rome and Greece shall pass away  
Forever! Statues with their marble tears  
    May stand in classic shades; but when that Day  
Of days shall come, the monuments will go,  
The Sphinx and tomb with not a line to show.

## CXV.

My Preacher telleth there is nothing new  
    Under the sun; so Rome was Rome before,  
    And Paris Paris. On the New World's shore—  
New? African or Pole or wandering Jew  
Were here great æons gone? Beneath the blue  
    I walk; the little auk may rise and soar  
    Above me. Nay. Extinct. And Nevermore!  
Is writ on Iceland, Denmark where he flew.  
We build Love's dearest monument to last;  
    But soon the ivy finds its chiselèd base,  
And moss obliterates the name. The blast  
    Has blacked it. Few short decades and no trace  
Remains. But he is building better far  
Who builds his monument beyond that Star!

## CXVI.

But, sing a new song; don't be gloomy, I  
    Would touch the riftless flute; for love and songs  
    And bridal marches, happy-footed throngs  
Of minstrel maids and boys, a starry sky,  
With endless bright processions passing by  
    In gala dress, with cymbals, golden gongs  
    Of melody, are not classed among life's wrongs,  
But are life's blessings ere the body die.  
The hand that arched the rainbow o'er the storm  
    Has filled our cornucopia with flowers  
Of every hue; and we may deck our form  
    With fabrics of the loom, and crown the hours  
With rosy-footed joys. Yet, more than this;  
A time will come to take the last earth kiss!

## CXVII.

Place ampyx on thy hair, a fillet band  
    Of loveliness, a snood of tasty art,  
    A diadem, a crown; but keep thy heart  
Unsullied. Rings are pretty on the hand,  
And in the hair an evergreen or strand  
    Of laurel. Go in beauty to the mart,  
    And ride in nice coupé or fangled cart,  
But ever have in view that cloudless land.  
Long-faced Religion, 't is the creed of men;  
    For my religion laughs the whole day long,  
Sith Paradise is ever in the ken,  
    And every heart-pulse leapeth in a song;  
Nay, nay, religion is to sweeten me,  
And sweeter make my sour humanity.



## CXVIII.

Pour out the ampul oil ; these sacred things  
 Are beautiful in pure chrismation, I  
 Feel holier with the holier vessels nigh ;  
 I love to hear the church-bell when it rings  
 Its Sunday matins, or in vespers sings  
 Religiously. The stillness of the sky  
 Seems stiller, and as music floateth by  
 Dies off in half religious questionings.  
 The firebells and the wedding bells may sound  
 In variant note ; but great cathedral bell  
 Gives us uncertain sound ; and in a swoond  
 Of His religious glory dieth. Spell.  
 With images of cherubim, hath held  
 Us thrall'd, as memories from forgotten eld.

## CXIX.

The Indo-Chinese architecture, grand  
 In half fantastic-like imaginings ;  
 The temple of Confucius with its wings  
 Of sculpture, great Pagoda, make this land  
 Unique ; for here the sculptor's cunning hand  
 Hath wrought with inspiration. Yet there clings  
 A reverence false, kaleidoscope of things,  
 As purposeless as pictures on the sand.  
 And yet hath beauty reveled in this clime ;  
 Some phases in a certain line of art  
 Teach that a subtle cunning and a rhyme  
 Of trainèd workmanship in many a part  
 Of Indra's temple, or Madura's fine,  
 Hath made the whole or kindred parts divine.



## CXX.

Spread dust upon the tablets ; trace for me  
    A diagram of loveliness, and paint  
    Ideal splendors, tracery as faint  
As soft Auroral flush, and like a sea  
Of glass, repose in beauty, with the tree,  
    Or vine, or Tuscan abacus ; a saint  
    At vespers, with a holy plea or plaint  
To that white One of ideality.

And give me Grecian Doric, with the trick  
    Of chiseled workmanship, Corinthian,  
Or Roman Doric ; yet the candle's wick  
    Is burning to its ebb. A Caliban  
May win our true life's everlasting goal.  
Worship this loveliness, but save thy soul.

## CXXI.

With low abased wing bow not thy head,  
    But bear thy chevron like a god, thy shield  
    Of dented glory on contested field  
Of valor ; let no battle's sun set red  
O'er thy defeat, though mountains of the dead  
    Appal thee. What thy battle, never yield  
    If Right be on thy banner. And dare wield  
The axe till every hostile foe has fled.  
And yet there is a braver fight for thee ;  
    Yet not a host with banners floating high  
Above a thousand spears, but Purity !  
    The quiet hue of unimpassioned eye ;  
The half unconscious glory of a soul  
That leans on God with murmured barcarolle.

## CXXII.

Put on thy red abolla ; I have naught  
    To wager 'gainst the glory of the land  
    Of song and love ; and I would head a band  
Of cloaked centurians ; for every spot  
Of earth is glorified to me. I fought  
    The battle of the soul. My works shall stand  
    Imperishable, though the crumbling sand  
Be scattered, if the keystone breaketh not.

I love the glory of the soldier ; I  
    Admire the banners of the rank and file ;  
I love to see Old Glory in the sky,  
    The burgee float o'er some historic pile  
Of Britain. Envy hath no place for me,  
But perfect Freedom's universality.

## CXXIII.

Put deft acanthus on thy pillars ; build  
    A thousand glories for thy palace ; rose  
    And intersecting vine commingle ; bows  
Of knotted flowers in stone have workman skilled  
Place beautifully, as some divinity willed  
    In realms of loveliness, and in repose  
    Soothing to love ; for dainty tracing goes  
To beautify, and life's glad heart is filled.

I'd love to be this king in marble home ;  
    I'd love to sit amid these statues white ;  
And just as daylight meets the darker gloam  
    Of starry eve, and whited queen of night  
Saieth in sea of clouds. And yet to me  
That other Mansion shines more gloriously.

## CXXIV.

Yea, have your brave aceldama on slope  
Of Hinnom, so it please thee ; but the vale  
Of Eden booteth more. A boat with sail  
Far out to sea, may hold thine earthly hope,  
And through the sea-night darkness you may grope  
With only love that dares the starless gale  
Of heaven ; and this is better far than wail  
On Jewish Hinnom, earth thy horoscope.  
But minds are different ; one adores the muse  
On starred Parnassus ; one aceldama  
To bury strangers 'neath the mournful yews  
Of some Jehoshaphat ; a falling star  
Draweth another. But the intimations  
Of Him are in minutest earth creations.

## CXXV.

Yet build your happy Adens in the land ;  
Make earth as beautiful as night when stars  
Are dreaming in the blue ; make little bars  
Of song ; go where the breakers roar, and stand  
A crowned Adonis ; make upon the sand  
The pictures of delight, and hum tra la  
Across the breakers. Now aloft, Jack Tars,  
And now alow, to rollers on the strand.  
Ye cannot be too happy ; drink the wine  
Of new deliciousness, and brim the glass  
With juicy splendors of the tipsy vine  
Of love's imagination ; gem the lass  
With opal clusters. But, O happy wight,  
The Bride awaiteth in her spotless white !

## CXXVI.

Let winged Vanessa flit from room to room ;  
 Let happy-throated songsters sing in cage ;  
 Find gem-like splendors on the classic page  
 Of genius ; have the rarest flowers in bloom,  
 And put electric stars amid the gloom  
 Of shortened days ; with music's note assuage  
 The dissonance of thought, and sweeten age  
 With gladness as it walketh to the tomb.

Grow flowers to scatter all along life's way ;  
 Build Paradises in the mind and heart ;  
 Play madrigals to dancing sprite and fay ;  
 Touch up thy habitation with the art  
 Of Vinci, make this earth Valhalla fair ;  
 And yet a brighter one is waiting There !

## CXXVII.

Let Juno's Æolus play his harp to thee  
 In evening hours ; this earth is sad at best ;  
 Since you may have a home, a quiet rest  
 Of love ; and soon a jar comes in thy glee :  
 A tear or two, and far across the sea  
 Of death, a barque is sailing to the west  
 With one so dear ! In white robes she was drest ;—  
 'Tis o'er ; the waves are lapping on the lee.

And yet I'd have you love the fairest child  
 Of God ; but if He taketh one away,  
 Be patient. Hath He ta'en one undefiled ?  
 Yea, be it so ; and better than astray  
 In love's defilement. Doth he chasten you ?—  
 Sometimes the heart is softened 'neath the yew !

## CXXVIII.

But, have thy ship ahull ; the storms may rise,  
The breakers dash against thee, and the roar  
Of angry waters terrify, the shore  
Look horribly beautiful to frightened eyes  
As into silver cream with emerald dyes  
They dash in glory. When the storm is o'er  
The bow, and great ship-clouds no longer pour  
Their rains, but sail away to other skies.  
And so thy heart-ship, keep her e'er ahull ;  
And so thy life-ship, keep her helm aright,  
So when the sun is sinking leaden, dull,  
And clouds in grand procession cross the light  
Of Sol, and Storm-King lowers, O thou wilt know  
Thy ship is safe, and soon will shine the bow.

## CXXIX.

And put thy winglet ailettes on, and be  
A knight of earned valor, couch thy lance  
Of tried steel, and Edward first the chance  
Of battle seek, the banner of the free  
Hold high in glory ! Dare to cross a sea  
Of blood for honor ! Let thy charger prance  
In barded 'ray, and though a battle dance  
Of steeds, let valor crown the revelry !  
The fight is to the hardy and the brave ;  
The glory, honor, to the soldier true,  
And ever make thy country's banner wave,  
But, be a soldier in thy gray or blue ;  
And yet a braver battle shall be fought  
Within the heart, with no escutcheon blot.

## CXXX.

Put on thy hanging alb, thy surplice white  
As snow, and dare be brave as Charlemagne  
Crossing the Alps; or wandering, homeless Payne  
In vagrant journeyings; hide not thy light  
Within the bushel, let it shine as night  
Of summer skies, when not a cloud doth stain  
The starry vault, with Luna in her reign  
Of cloudless glory, palely pure and bright.  
And then the world will be a fairy land  
To thee, and weed and bush and blooming flower  
Will take an added beauty, as the hand  
Of Flora, with an untranslated power,  
Had added loveliness to loveliness  
Before, and tricked them in a fairer dress.

## CXXXI.

For I can see a hint of God in all  
This loveliness; and every sonnet built  
In linkèd rhymes, like gems upon the hilt  
Of famed Excalibur, are flowers on wall  
Of Eden unto me. A bird may call  
On briery knoll, an ox-eye daisy tilt  
On old worm fence, a drop of dew be spilt  
From blooming rose, divinity's here withal.  
A hint, suggestion, intimation slight  
As color on the lily, or the first  
New flush on summer's rose, if read aright,  
May satisfy the heart; the soul may burst  
Th' invisible bonds that bind, and ope the door  
To Heaven, far, far across that silent Shore!

## CXXXII.

So, find a revelation in the weeds  
By cow-path, or along the dusty way  
Where hurried foot has gone; for night and day  
Have revelations unto him who heeds  
These things. In crimson-tippèd flower he reads  
Life's mysteries; e'en the dashing of the spray  
Against the piled shells, hath word to say  
To intimation, nuns with rosary beads.  
For Nature is a self-translated book  
To those who care to read; and Milton read  
With sealèd eye, and Wordsworth with the look  
Of wisdom, till the primrose flower or dead  
Burns taught him life's acute philosophy,  
The light that never was on land or sea.

## CXXXIII.

Yea, mount thy white Alborak steed and fly  
To Paradise, to happy Adens far  
Beyond the rising, never-setting star  
Of glory. Yet our earth with spangled sky,  
And glittering star, a woven banner high  
Above us, is a great round rolling car  
Of grandeur unto me; and yet the Bar  
Of Death is 'twixt us where the heavens lie.  
And so as Death is here our latest guest  
On earth, O why not seek that other clime  
Where Death is not? For Edens of the blest  
Are ever and forever like a rhyme  
Of worlds, the music making music more  
And more, as master organs of that Shore.



## CXXXIV.

And though thy alca wings be short for flight  
 Across the ether pure, refinèd, still  
 Unfurl them on the Pyrenean hill  
 Of light, and sail across the stars of night,  
 Beyond the crescent moon ; for Death, cold white,  
 Is king of kingdoms here ; so, wingèd quill  
 And pen of gold be laid aside, for rill  
 Of death is sounding e'er for lord or knight.  
 And yet the glory of this fleeting earth  
 Of destined years is lovelier to me  
 Than wedding dreams ; it hath a music, mirth,  
 A symphony of syllabled minstrelsy,  
 A Beethoven Sonata full of grand  
 Memorial numbers from a master hand.

## CXXXV.

And yet be Queen Alcestis in thy heart  
 Of hearts, and some Euripides of verse  
 May give thee immortality. The herse  
 With empty walls, (where death has sped his dart,)  
 May rumble darkly to thy curb ; 'tis part  
 Of life ; and so I'd have thee frame no curse ;  
 But be Alcestis in the universe  
 Of things, and smile at death's insidious smart.  
 For there's a glory of the stars, the sun  
 That gilds the hills with beauty, and the moon  
 Hanging like shield of silver, and the dun  
 Meadows of Autumn, and the cannie Doon  
 In Burnsland far ; for I would have you win  
 E'en earth, yet have the angels for thy kin.



## CXXXVI.

Get Aldine books of beauty ; vases rare  
As Vestal maids, and pictures where the art  
Is perfect art ; read poems to the heart  
From masters dead or living ; bury Care  
In flowers ; and grow the peach and mellow pear  
In sunlit orchards ; fetch from foreign mart  
The golden jewel ; let the teardrop start  
In love, and thou shalt never know Despair !  
For vases, curios and bric-a-brac,  
Adornments of embellished gold, fine scenes  
Of sunset lands, all lead along the track  
To Heaven. So, dance across the May-pole greens  
Of life ; for Eden homes are intimations  
To me of Life's ideal associations.

## CXXXVII.

For beautiful associations are  
Akin to things divine ; so beautify  
The mind, and go where quiet waters lie  
Like silver mirrors ; leap the sanded bar  
To bowered isle, and dream a flowery car  
Is bearing thee, beneath the placid sky,  
To some Hesperides, and heart and eye  
Will be united, pure as astral star.  
And then will mind and soul according well  
Make music on the gold-strings of the heart ;  
And life will lure thee like a Christabel  
In half retirement ; sith sweet love and art,  
And beauties from a thousand varied climes,  
Make Easter music with no jarring chimes.

## CXXXVIII.

Be brave as Algebar ; the Holy Grail  
Will come to thee if thou wilt never faint  
Beside the way. Have heart and dare to paint  
Ideal pictures. Dare to cross the Vale  
Of Tears, and dare put on thy linkèd mail  
And face the foe. I love a nun, a saint  
Of Christ at vespers, but deplore the taint  
That kills the fruit, the groan and wryèd wail.  
So, be a hero. Life's a battle-ground  
To fight the battles of the days that fill  
Our years ; and never faint at martial sound,  
The roll of drum, but storm the Lookout Hill,  
The high redoubt, the battled palisade ;  
And yet this panorama all will fade !

## CXXXIX.

But though a Washington in glory's cause ;  
And though a Wellington at Waterloo,  
An Anton Seidl's fate may come to you  
In Wagner's funeral march of death ; so pause  
And think on death to be ; for all his laws  
Are rigid and unchanging. Dare be true  
To self, and when thy star sets in the blue  
Bright sky, crowned Love will say : "A god he was !"  
For Cæsar felt the flush of life, and Grant  
And Hannibal, and mighty Corsican ;  
But waves rolled o'er them like a mad Nahant,  
And Death the victor, stormed the barbican  
Of life, and earthly fame was gulfed in death.  
For life to high or low is but a breath !

CXL.

The stately minuet in Pleasure's halls ;  
 The light fandango with the castanet  
 In Moorish lands ; the dance on fine parquette  
 With Gipsy sylph ; our land's Inaugural balls,  
 May lure the heart ; the prompter's noisy calls ;  
 The grand orchestral notes ; the lips still wet  
 With dance-wine dew ; and yet, O Dancer ! yet  
 Music hath fled from Tara's mouldered walls.  
 For music of the earth will cease at last ;  
 The whirling waltz, the giddy dance, will end ;  
 But when the fiddle stops, the tone has passed  
 Into an utter silence, will it blend  
 With Death's processional music to the tomb,  
 When loveliest parterres no longer bloom ?

CXLI.

Your gold may build an earthly abatis  
 With forkèd pickets, scarp and parapet,  
 And you may pay to earth the goodly debt  
 Of earthiness ; and yet the farewell kiss  
 Of Vestal love, when life has lost its bliss,  
 Its song, would be as sweet as castanet  
 In hand of Spanish love-maid, when regret  
 Is all remains to crown a life amiss.  
 So, crumple up life's luring manuscript,  
 And lay aside the gauds and tinsel dress  
 Of worldliness ; for dancing maids have tript  
 To earthly measures ; and their last caress  
 Will leave the sting of long-abused wine,  
 Specious and lovely as a Geraldine !

## CXLII.

Have dainty candelabra in thy rooms  
Of pleasure ; have thy branchèd chandelier  
Alight, and have Etruscan vase as clear  
As still Utopian streams, exotic blooms  
And odorous flowers ; have little quiet glooms  
For half concealèd nudeness, pictures dear  
To vanished days, an artificial mere,  
And on it fairy ships with shining booms.  
And have thy harps and changing æthrioscope,  
And all the handiwork of chiseled art  
From far Italian clime ; have carvèd Hope,  
Euterpe, Queen of lyric verse, and heart  
And soul will have their highest earthly wish !—  
Is satisfaction in this dainty dish ?

## CXLIII.

And yet I'd have a world of art for thee,  
The song-bird, mock-bird, and the bobolink,  
The bullfinch, and a little whirling rink  
Of treasures ; busts of captains dead at sea,  
And Termini of old antiquity,  
And philosophic Hermes ; dainty pink  
And rose, festooning chains with golden link  
And swivel, every kind of fruit and tree.  
And little silver turnstiles, golden crowned ;  
And noiseless gates of filigree ; in sooth !  
The cravings of the heart in Coma swound  
Of earth deliciousness. And yet that booth  
Of hewèd boards, so oft a laugh at Art,  
Has held the best effusions of the heart !

CXLIV.

A Portland vase is just as dear to me ;  
     Mosaic work and parquetry, the nave  
     In pillared church, the Anton Seidl stave  
 Of Wagner song, and orientally  
 Exhumèd statuary, melody  
     Of trancèd Mozarts ; and the cypress grave  
     I'd beautify, the streets of earth I'd pave  
 With hope and joy and love eternally.  
 For earth can be a paradise, a place  
     Of peace and song and glory, and a land  
 Of pure delight. So, turn thy wrinkled face  
     Away from lust, be leader of a band  
 Of happy mortals destined for the skies  
 Of blinding beauty to our human eyes.

CXLV.

Have not the Shelleys beautified our life  
     In song and art? The Tennysons have made  
     A witching music in the soul, arrayed  
 In more than earthly glory. Battled strife  
 Disarmed by melody ! So, sheathe the knife  
     Of slaughter, make no red embattled raid,  
     But woo all music, for the leaf will fade,  
 The flower, and death will crown the happiest wife.  
 For in the grand ovations of this world  
     Of fleeting loveliness, all things will perish ;  
 No matter how your banner is unfurled,  
     No matter how the fondest heart may cherish  
 The things of earth, and so my song to thee  
 Is : Win this world and Immortality !

## CXLVI.

Wear Venus' cestus to awaken love  
And joy in thousand hearts ; have marble boys,  
And Caryates fair ; and mixed alloys  
Of shining beauty ; have a silvery dove  
In wingèd marble, spangled stars above,  
A little artificial sky, and joys  
In alabaster, fabricated toys,  
And silver boats that dainty hands may shove.  
Have chiseled obelisk or corbel niche  
With fine ogee or moulding rare, a nook  
Of builded marbles, tapestries so rich  
In Oriental handiwork, a book  
Of poems hath no fine allurements. Yet  
How vain, how vain, when dying eyes are wet !

## CXLVII.

Have clustered columns, carvèd balustrade,  
The wave-like cyma, dainty fret and foils,  
The feathery foliations, vines in coils  
And quirks of beauty, and a masquerade  
Of undisguisèd loves, no pasquinade  
Of low lampoonry, not a word that soils ;  
Sith here are knights who only use the foils  
Of Peace ! And yet this fabric fair will fade !  
And yet I'd pile the wealth of Ind for thee,  
The treasures of a thousand shores, this earth  
Would make as beautiful as love, a sea  
Of never-ending glory ; yet, in mirth,  
In worldly splendors have one thought for Him,  
For all thy proud mirage will soon be dim !



CXLVIII

I have no word against a happy life ;  
 I have no word against a happy home ;  
 I'd have another Golden Age of Rome  
 For thee ; I'd have the banishment of strife,  
 The quick dethronement of all war ; the knife  
 Of Spaniard I would sheathe ; the golden Tome  
 Translate for every country where the gloam  
 Is thickest, when the hostile word is rife.  
 I'd crown McKinley with the Wreath of Peace ;  
 I'd crown the world, the Regent Queen of Spain ;  
 My Country with the glory that was Greece,  
 If Love shall reign ! Above the mangled slain  
 I'd drop the tear of Pity ; for this world  
 Is Love. No hostile banner be unfurled !

CXLIX.

So, build thy castles in the air, but think  
 On Death ! Have pleasure-houses if you will,  
 But, listen for that Voice so small and still ;  
 Have pastures green, the lily, rose and pink ;  
 But, weld for aye life's breaking, broken link ;  
 And build thy mansion on a lordly hill ;  
 But night and day there is a quiet rill  
 Running, and soon 'twill reach the final Brink !  
 So, in these Intimations find the route  
 Of glory ; dare inherit beauties here  
 On earth ; but never let the lamp go out  
 That lights the way beyond the shedded tear ;  
 For life at best is but a passing dream  
 Of Faery, thousands lost upon the Stream !

## CL.

But now farewell, a poet's last adieu;

A happy singer's last, his parting word:

His song was not the song of nesting bird

In quiet nooks, but trumpet sounds to you!

And never bard more honest trumpet blew

Unto his clan! For with this age I'm stirred

To might, since these are doubtings I have heard:

"I doubt my Bible and old things and new!"

But I: "Have faith, for life is full of good:

Large-hearted men and noble women live;

I like to go where Beecher Stowes have stood!

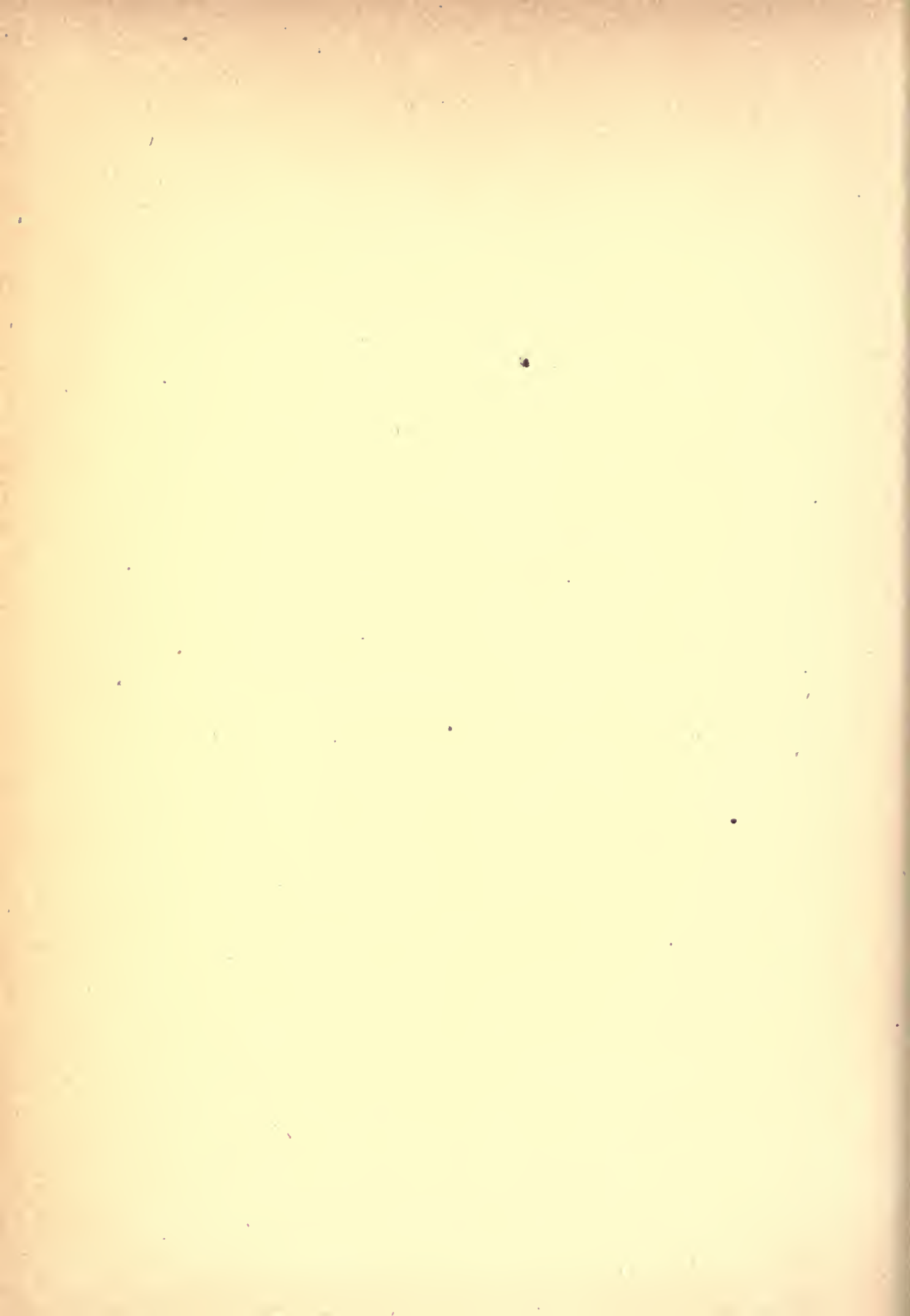
I know a million silent hands will give;

I know that though a darkness pall the night,

Behind it all the great sun shineth bright!"



THE LADY OF SANTA ROSA



## THE LADY OF SANTA ROSA

### DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

ANSO, *High Priest of Saturn.*  
DON MIGUEL, *cousin of Inez.*  
LOLA MORENO, *a Gitano dancing girl.*  
DOLORES DE CASTRO, *a Spanish beauty.*  
PRINCE HENRIQUE, *son of a foreign duke.*  
SEÑORITA INEZ, *Don Miguel's cousin.*  
ALBERTI, *Lola's gipsy lover.*  
MIDDLE, *a street clown.*

### ACT I.

#### SCENE I.

*Place, SPAIN. In a room of FATHER ANSO.*

*Enter DON MIGUEL.*

*Don Mig.* A goodly morning to you, Father Anso.

*Anso.* It is a goodly morning, Miguel.

But mornings are not new to hoary Spain;  
Since long, long years ago, ere Spaniard lived,  
Or goodly Spain was in the almanac  
Of time, did mornings blush upon the earth,  
The hoary hills, the mountains vast and grand;  
And e'en when swarthy Moors held martial sway,  
And with their valor dared to conquer kingdoms.

*Don Mig.* Thy language is as ancient as the hills  
Of Spanish empires; thine ideas are gray  
As time himself. But ever did old men  
Return to buried past, to times agone  
Adown the centuries, and so far away  
That younger men like me are lost in whirl  
Of multitudinous years. But, holy father,  
Pray tell me what thou fashionest with ardor  
And undenied desire. Since all thy face,  
Thy manner, doth betray thine adoration.

*Anso.* Young man, thou art as splendid as the sun;  
Thou art as brilliant as the gloried sky;  
And in thy courtly dress of hat and feathers,  
And buckled breeches, broidered, flowing waist,  
With flowered shoe, and tinsel, silk-like stockings,  
And worked by lady's dainty hand, thy sword  
With diamonds decked, and filigree-like handle.  
Thou art, believe me, Don, the greatest knight  
And courtier in all Spain. Men envy thee.

*Don Mig.* I did not come to woo thy flattery;  
For such as I need not the lying tongue  
Of Spain's society. I'm as independent  
As greatest lord of Cadiz or Peru,  
Or any count of Mediterranean waters  
That babble out their old salt song. 'Tis I,  
O Priest of Saturn, and no other lord;  
So, tell me of thy workmanship, this thing  
That thou dost fashion to such comely shape.

*Anso.* By all the powers of heaven and lower earth,  
I mark thee for a god of trouble. Beauty  
Like thine, and courtliness, and prowess rare,

Will lead to old temptation, which hath sat  
On life's high parapet and watched for prey  
In coming babe; for loveliness in maid;  
For glory, comeliness in thoughtless man;  
For gloried fame in some Homeric hero;  
A soldier of a fortune high as captains;—  
And thus thy dazzling presence will outshine  
Thine earthly rivals, till Don Miguel  
Becometh star of finest magnitude.

*Don Mig.* And thereby falleth from his firmament.

*Anso.* Unless thou hast an old man's fortitude,  
And such a self-restraint as only gray  
Hairs have.

*Don Mig.* Then will I paint my hair as white  
As hoary snows of winters; for if wisdom,  
And fortitude, and self-restraint, and glory  
Are the constituent parts of white-haired age,  
Then, Father Anso, I, Don Miguel  
De Santa Rosa de Granada, will  
Grow old so fast my hair becometh white  
In single night.

*Anso.* He maketh light of me!

*Don Mig.* I beg thy priestly pardon; I must have  
My courtly pun. But, hearken, Priest of Saturn,  
There's not a man in Cadiz, ay! Nor Spain,  
Who beareth greater love for thee; since thou  
Art wise beyond thy times. Thou art a prophet,  
A seer. And were I in a troublous state  
Of mind, to thee I'd hie.

*Anso.* Then thou art troubled?  
Old love, forever new, hath late beset thee,

And, like a cobra, still retains his hold.

*Don Mig.* Then thou hast heard of this Don's love?

I see!

All Spain will soon reiterate the story.

But, hark, my Father Anso, I have come

To visit thee with such a tale of love

That e'en the stars do weep. So, lend thine ear.

*Anso.* I will. Tho' new this love to thee, 'tis old

To earth as life. 'Tis old to me. But, speak;

For love hath wingèd feet and tongue, and sleeps

Not till his enemies and friends alike

Do hear his tale of worldly lamentation.

*Don Mig.* Thou talkest as old love had late de-  
throned thee.

But, listen to my tale; for such my love

No man e'er knew or felt a sweeter. I

Lie down at night on grassy mead, and there

Beneath the whited stars, I see my love;

In draperied room, in festooned bed, I dream

Of beauty's things, the loveliness of ladies'

Eyes. Lying half asleep in semblance strange

Of death, I paint with Raphael beauty, love,

Love, love, with such a train of rare delights,

And pleasures, joys and dainty ecstasies,

That, Father Anso, I would die the death

Of love, if 'twould not break two loving hearts.

*Anso.* Thy love is new as newly kennèd star?

*Don Mig.* And brighter far than sweet Andromeda.

*Anso.* And sorely it doth trouble thee?

*Don Mig.*

Yea, father;

And now I come to thee for solace rare;

Since, go I 'mong my kinder friends, they smile;

And 'mong unkindlier, their lips do curl;  
So, unto thee I turn as one who will  
Judge me precisely, at my finest worth.

*Anso.* Then sit thee by me, as by stroke of hand,  
And soothing word, to thy responsive eye  
I'd lend the glory of mine age, and paint  
The picture of thy love-led life. Now speak.

*Don Mig.* Her name hath music, voweled too and round,  
Dolores! Was there ever such a name?  
'Tis sweet as nectar in old bottles found,  
With such aroma unto me, that life  
Goes double in its sweetness. Love I sleep,  
And love I dream. 'Tis all my life's new business.

*Anso.* And never busier man than thou, Granada;  
For love will give a wink of sleep when poppy  
Leaves, drunk in wine, do hide the petty thought;  
Since just so long as thought remaineth stable,  
Is paramount, so long will love delay  
The hour of sleep. But bards have sung Dolores.

*Don Mig.* For such her beauty, such her ravishment.

*Anso.* But is she not in everybody's mouth?

*Don Mig.* Aye, beggar, lord and count and courtly  
knight!

*Anso.* Then jealousy may yet beset thy heart,  
Since every courtly clown doth homage pay.

*Don Mig.* But I'm a better, since with welded sword  
I'll hurl them all to native dust, and she  
Will hold me high in favor as the hero  
Of many battles.

*Anso.* Once the glory gone,  
The cute enravishment that clothes a name  
In lustrous beauty, and Don Miguel



Becometh tame, a man without his art ;  
A duteous husband with a rusting sword,  
His epaulets displaced and shoulder-star.

*Don Mig.* Then unto newer battles will I turn ;  
Call forth all doughty heroes of the brand,  
And say : I offer unto thee Dolores  
As beauteous prize ; and any swordsman dare  
To face Granada, hath her hand in fee,  
If hap so shape his fortune !

*Anso.* Said e'en well,  
Don Miguel. But, hearken. What I build  
With rarest divination, as you asked me,  
Is blessèd heart of Santa Rosa. Such  
An amulet as sons of old Poseidon  
Dared worship in their lowly holiness.  
'Twas at this time, Don Miguel, long gone,  
Long years ago. The Trident then was used  
By sons of old Poseidon as the symbol  
Of fair Atlante.

*Don Mig.* Yet from what was't made ?

*Anso.* 'Twas fashioned from a great fire opal, which  
Was purchased at old Atlan of the west,  
An amulet as beautiful as life ;  
As pure as holy heaven's whitest star,  
And valuable beyond imagination !  
I prize it as the apple of mine eye,  
And, too, as dearest daughter of my heart ;  
And touched on holy week, it giveth peace,  
Tranquillity and hope, enlightenment  
Spiritual.

*Don Mig.* Then will I dare possess it, father,  
As talisman, an amulet of love,



An anchor to 'my soul, a charm to make  
E'en better days for darling love and I,  
To sweeten mine already sweetened love,  
And make my dreams as beautiful as Cupids  
Who wing their way in night-time o'er the couches  
Of old new lords of love, till lovely Cadiz  
Seems full of Spanish maids and brilliant ladies!

*Anso.* Thou art full sick with love, Don Miguel;  
And e'en thy waking evening hour is dream  
To thee, since I am dead these hundred years!

*Don Mig.* Dead? Anso, thou art riddle of the gods,  
And, Ate-like, thou wouldst befuddle me  
With hate and old revenge. But love tells true  
Thou art no ghost, but ghost tho' thou mayst be;  
Yet linger with thine Atlan story, since,  
O Priest of Saturn, I have come to thee  
With many a piteous tale; for love besets me  
Upon three several sides.

*Anso.* I am a ghost;  
But tell thine everlasting tale, since love  
Hath thousand tongues, and stories sweetened rare,  
And 's never done till lady sleepeth last  
In marble tomb of unrelenting death;  
But speak, Granada; love is never old.

*Don Mig.* Upon three several sides I am beset:  
Upon my wicked side, because my sword  
I carry there, fair wild Gitano sits,  
The dancing girl of Gades, with a skin  
Olive, and eyes as dark as midnight skies,  
A beggar beauty whose bright dagger, father,  
Would cut my heart for unrequited love.

*Anso.* A dangerous lass is this Moreno, Don;

Her race is treacherous. Love her, all is well.

*Don Mig.* I love her as the gadfly or the jackdaw,  
As cat the mouse, the boy the butterfly,  
A prisoner his cell, a queen her throne.

*Anso.* Why riddle thus? Thou lov'st her for the hour?  
She is thy beer, but not thy luscious wine?

*Don Mig.* Yea, common as my beer, mine ancient sack ;  
But Cousin Inez ! Ah, High Priest of Saturn,  
She's jewel-fashioned finely. Born a beauty,  
She yet sits on the north of my affections ;  
Since though as lovely as a star, as pure,  
I hate her ; for I'm plighted by my father,  
Her father.

*Anso.* 'Tis love's old, old story, Don.

*Don Mig.* To keep the name of Santa Rosa, father,  
Imperishable in the realm of Spain,  
Don Pedro Santa Rosa de Granada,  
Father of Inez, and mine old ambitious  
Pa, touched their Spanish noses o'er their wine,  
And plighted us for life, eternity ;  
But little caring for this Inez, father.  
Yet hear my story. She was foolish eight,  
And I sixteen, when o'er their Gascon wine  
They plighted us. Forsooth ! Two paltry knaves  
Who only money had in winy thought.  
I know she's fair as lilies of the valley,  
As pure as Geyser waters, lucent wines,  
That she is heiress to the Santa Rosa  
Estates.

*Anso.* In case of her demise?

*Don Mig.* Then, father,  
All Santa Rosa lands revert to me.

*Anso.* And thou dost marry her?

*Don Mig.* 'Tis but the same.

Yet, listen. Still another findeth place  
Within my heart.

*Anso.* Thou hast a triple love?

*Don Mig.* Indeed! But out of such a brilliant three  
I choose Dolores Castro! She is fair;  
The glory of Seville; and can be had  
Just for the winning.

*Anso.* Let me tell thee now,  
Forever! Choose fair Inez for thy wife,  
And all thine earthly troubles will be o'er.

*Don Mig.* Forbear, oh Priest of Saturn! Love will  
guide.

*Anso.* Once married to Dolores, trouble, trouble.

*Don Mig.* But love is mine immortal counterpart.

*Anso.* Once wedded to the dark Moreno, life  
Will be a farce or tragedy of old.

*Don Mig.* Believe me, Anso, thou art very ghost;  
For I am sleeping here upon the public  
Stage, aye! the world's great rostrum, where we actors  
But do our unavoidable parts, and quick  
Retire from life and hoary seeming death,  
To turn to native dust, the food for worms  
And all things vile. But, father, answer me,  
What makest thou? 'Tis rare beyond compare,  
And fills me with a kind of holiness.

*Anso.* Young man, I am the shade of other years;  
Am resurrected from a past so distant,  
It is forgot, and things of now seem strange  
And wonderful. But since I'm here amid  
Thy dreaming hours, I'll tell thee all my story.

I am the Priest of Saturn. I am mighty  
 In spirituality. Goodness is my business.  
 I lived when th' Trident was the symbol of  
 Atlantic, when the prows of all her vessels  
 Spread fame throughout the kingdoms of the world;  
 Her colonies did flourish from Peru,  
 Central America, Spain, and Ireland, Egypt,  
 The Mediterranean, ay! the then known world.  
 With knowledge strange, occult of hidden things,  
 I sought this Atlan opal, rare and fine;  
 To amulet in shape of human heart  
 I fashioned it, a gem, a rarity;  
 And whoso doth possess it, hath protection  
 From Ate, Nemesis, and all bad gods.

*Don Mig.* But who so lucky as to gain its keeping?

*Anso.* To him, who was a ruler o'er proud Gades,  
 My nephew, was the amulet presented. (*Ex. Anso.*)

*Don Mig. (Aside.)* St! Mark ye, I, Granada, must  
 possess it.

Now out upon thee as a priestly coward!  
 What! Gone? And not a footfall? I alone?  
 What means it? Were it gray old dawn of day,  
 I'd have the explanation in my wine-cups;  
 But, lo! 'Tis only evening, and my head's  
 As clear as cowbell flower or buttercup  
 In daisied meads. My three green loves, Dolores,  
 Moreno, and my cousin rare, have turned  
 My head; I'm drunk with interlacing sweets;  
 I'm dreaming, or 't's hallucination strange.  
 No Priest of Saturn here? What doth it mean?  
 'Tis strange, aye, strange. It mimes with gaunt old meanings  
 And 's warning unto me in all my loves.

I'll hence to Santa Rosa's house, in Cadiz,  
And he shall tell me of this new Atlantis.

*Enter* PRINCE HENRIQUE.

*Henrique.* Ha, ha! And fools do dream upon their  
legs,  
Their eyes wide staring. Priest of Saturn! Ha,  
My feathered lord, he's dead these thousand years.

*Don Mig.* What villain clown is this? (*Drawing his sword.*)

*Henrique.* 'Tis Prince  
Henrique!

*Don Mig.* A prince? Forsooth!

*Henrique.* A prince, forsooth!

*Don Mig.* A  
coward!

*Henrique.* Dost lose thy courtly temper?

*Don Mig.* Aye, false  
prince!

*Henrique.* At home, and such a courtier lord as thou  
Had tasted this late red Damascus blade.

*Don Mig.* A quarrel's not for time nor place.

*Henrique.* Then  
cross!

*Don Mig.* My basket-hilted sword is good as thine;  
So, have a care, and guard thy treacherous heart;  
And back, or I shall run thee through, petard!

*Henrique.* Thy guard, Sir Boaster, or thy Spanish  
blood

Shall dye thy footing-place.

*Don Mig.* 'Tis thine to win,

If so thou handle thy good sword. Come, prince!

(*They fence rapidly for a moment. HENRIQUE suddenly  
draws back.*)

*Henrique.* Thou art a pretty swordsman.

*Don Mig.* So art thou.

*Henrique.* Come, let's be friends; we seem of liker metal;

And here's my hand.

*Don Mig.* And mine in kindly token.

*Henrique.* Now tell me who thou art: because one man Alone in Spain can wield the sword like thee.

*Don Mig.* His name?

*Henrique.* Don Miguel de Santa Rosa  
Granada.

*Don Mig.* 'Tis mine own name; and but one  
Can face me, sire, as thou hast. 'Tis the son.  
Plumed sirrah! of the Duke of old Medina-  
Sidonia. Art thou he, a stranger here?

*Henrique.* I am; and we shall have no further quarrel  
Until some gypsy maid divide her love.  
But, hark. The Priest of Saturn was thy theme;  
And wast thou fooling with thy courtly self?

*Don Mig.* Not I; for Anso walked these boards to-  
night.

And only on your quick arrival went.

*Henrique.* Beneath the eaves I heard thy talk, and saw  
No man, not e'en the semblance of a ghost;  
And to myself I said: This man's a fool,  
For he doth prate of love to hoary shadows;  
He talks of dancing girls of wild Gitano  
Blood.

*Don Mig.* Careful!

*Henrique.* And of some Dolores fair.

*Don Mig.* My sword is itching for patrician blood.

*Henrique.* Thine easy angers may cost blood, and thine!



*Don Mig.* Defy me not, O false and foreign prince!

*Henrique.* And further in this rare delightful story,  
We hear of Inez. To thine old guitarra  
Dost sing: O wild Lolita?

*Don Mig.* Dost thou toy?

*Henrique.* And then on softer strings, in cadence rare,  
O, dear Dolores, fair Dolores.

*Don Mig.* Scoundrel!

*Henrique.* And then a string to love, e'en pathos tuned:  
Oh, fairest Inez, angels guard thy couch.

*Don Mig.* Hast come to Spain to lose thy foreign  
blood?

*Henrique.* And all thy loves were queen: Moreno  
wild;

Dolores fair, and Inez rare.

*Don Mig.* Get hence,  
Or draw!

*Henrique.* My sword? Nay, Cupid draws his courtier,  
His blatant lord, and with a spider string  
So fine, my Miguel deems he leads the battle.  
Have done with such sweet folly, for 'twill sour thee;  
Give sleepless nights, a lusty, fool-hard temper;  
A spite for quarrels with a saucy style.

*Don Mig.* Sir, were I not so late in priestly presence,  
A foreign prince had bit our Spanish dust.

*Henrique.* I've come not here to brew a Spanish  
quarrel;

My heart is love; my sword is love; my thought.  
Come, come, Don Miguel, wilt share thy loves?  
Let wild Lolita be my gypsy nymph.

*Don Mig.* Prince, take her; I've no quarrel for Moreno.

*Henrique.* Two loves are more than feast, e'en for a

lord ;

So, let the Donna Inez be my prize.

*Don Mig.* When babes in years, our fathers plighted us.

*Henrique.* Then even she shall be my wedless bride?

*Don Mig.* A thousand yeses. She's my cousin fair.

*Henrique.* My titles, Miguel, are high as thine.

*Don Mig.* No doubt can enter.

*Henrique.* For the doors are shut.

But tell me, are we not well met?

*Don Mig.* As courtiers?

*Henrique.* And swordsmen of the finest ardor?

*Don Mig.* Aye!

*Henrique.* And so of every capon we must share

A leg.

*Don Mig.* And half and half of wing and breast.

*Henrique.* But thou shalt have the tail, for thou art last.

*Don Mig.* I read thy sarcasm in thy words and manners ;

Yet dare resolve this riddle ; for my business

Doth draw me hard.

*Henrique.* And e'en as hangman's rope.

*Don Mig.* Hark, sirrah ! I have done with innuendoes.

*Henrique.* Then draw, and briefest time shall settle it !

(*They commence action, when with a scream, LOLITA MORENO springs between them.*)

*Lolita.* Oh, Miguel, don't lose thy life for such !

*Henrique.* What jade is this ?

*Lolita.* A dancing girl of Spain !

*Don Mig.* And I'll defend her with my life. *Aside !*

*Henrique.* Wilt draw thy sword for such a strumpet ?

*Lolita.* Yes !

*Henrique.* Then faretheewell, my doughty hero. *Bye !*

(*Ex. HENRIQUE.*)



*Lolita.* And never cast thy shadows more in Spain.

*Don Mig.* Lolita, mind him not; my love for thee  
Is boisterous as the brooks of Cadiz.

*Lolita.* Yes.

*Don Mig.* And ever shall my sword defend thee, darling.  
Come, let me lead thee to this rustic seat,  
And with mine old guitarra will we while  
A passing hour, and in such songs to thee,  
That dark Moreno's heart shall beat in tune;  
And then the grave old saraband may dance.  
There, my Gitano, what is this but loving?  
If every courtier, duke or titled lord,  
Should act his heart, the dancing girls of Spain  
Would lead them to the altar. Now a dance,  
And o'er the silk and silver strings I'll wander,  
While featly thou wilt foot it like a sylph.

*Lolita.* Love's blind; but I will dance his old fandango.

(*Dances.*)

*Don Mig.* Ha, that is fine as Moorish maid, Moreno.

*Lolita.* And does my dancing please Don Miguel?

*Don Mig.* Better than courtly lady, beauty fair.

*Lolita.* I'm gladdened if so great a lord is pleased.

*Don Mig.* Now sing with thy wild sweet voice, and  
thy race

Will glory in thy loveliness, while I  
Do drink thy rapturous beauty dark and rare.

*Lolita.* I dance for thee; I sing to thee, for love!

(*Sings.*)

SONG.

A courtier knight, a Spanish lord,  
Doth love Moreno fair,  
And on the old guitarra, love,

We'll sing her beauty rare.

CHORUS.

Oh sing tra la,

Oh sing tra lee,

On old guitar,

On old guitar,

In love's med-lèè.

Moreno is a dancing girl,

The rarest of her kind,

She floats with airy pirouette,

With magic of the wind.

CHO.

Her eyes are black, her skin is dark,

Her soul is in her eyes,

Her beauty is the beauty, love,

Of starry midnight skies.

CHO.

*Don Mig.* Thy song is beautiful as thine own self.

(*ALBERTI, her gypsy lover, suddenly enters.*)

*Alberti.* What hound is this? (*Yanking MORENO to her feet.*)

Moreno, art thou mad?

Sir villain, draw thy sword, and skill shall tell!

Thy courtier blood is blue, but mine is red.

So, villain, draw!

*Lolita.* Alberti, back! He's master.

*Alberti.* Black wench, aside, or my Gitano blood  
Shall vent its ire on thee!

*Don Mig.* Go pluck his sleeve,  
And lead him from this amphitheatre;  
I'd sob to shed his blood. Poor man, his love  
Hath made him mad. And such a man as he;

So tall, so dark, with raven, curly locks,  
 And whiskers like a pirate's. Lola, go!  
 His love is gold to mine of silver. Lead  
 The way, and never shall a lord dare sing  
 Another song of love on Spain's guitar  
 To airy dancing maid, Moreno Lola.

*Alberti.* But, let me at the scoundrel, maid Gitano.

*Lolita.* Alberti, have no word with him; he's kind  
 To dancing girls like me. I'm sure his soul  
 Is pure. My love should pacify Alberti.

*Alberti.* For once it shall; but ere she lead me hence,  
 Bold knave, a word with thee. Once touch a hair  
 Of my Moreno's head, and young Granada's  
 Blood—But, I go. Moreno, lead me out. (*Ex. both.*)

*Don Mig.* A booby. Faugh! I should have run him  
 thro' ;

But, no—Poor fool, he loves her with his heart,  
 While I with touch of sensuality ;

I'd kill the dog should he molest me further.

But faugh! I've bigger fish than such as he.

This foreign prince hath something of the rascal ;

And yet a kind of fascination. He

Doth puzzle me. 'Twere luck, since but for this,

Our quarrel had assumed a deadly ending.

(*He turns to pass out, when he is met by INEZ, who is in  
 half mask.*)

*Inez.* Don Miguel?

*Don Mig.* Yes, Inez, and thy lover.

But why dost come? The hour is late, and scoundrels

Begin their wicked tramps, with darkness as

Disguise. A maid so delicate as thou

Should hie her home to mother's covering wing.

But, look ! Thon art disguised ! Why domino  
On face so fair ? 'Tis love and jealousy  
Upon a rampage. Pray, wilt tell thy lord ?

*Inez.* Dost know a coarse Gitano dancing girl ?

*Don Mig.* Ha, ha ! and so god Cupid leads my lassie ?  
Too good, too good ! Pray, Inez, let me dare  
Remove thy domino ; for thou art passing  
Fair ; lily beauty from some tropic clime ;  
A house-plant watered by the tears of lovers. (*Removes mask.*  
Thou art too fair ; and every noble eye  
Will bear me out in't. So, a dancing gypsy  
Hath robbed my lady of her quiet. Ha,  
Love oft hath made a crown of thorns. But, Inez,  
Go rest in peace ; I'm true as Polar star ;  
My love is clear and pure as Polar night ;  
The glittering Polar stars his anadem.

*Inez.* I will confess my love for thee hath led  
Me out, and in such hour that I do tremble.

*Don Mig.* But be no more aroused ; for such a love  
As mine can guard thee all thy livelong days,  
And make thy life a running ditty. Come,  
Let's forth. But, stay ; a Peter for thy Paul.  
Didst notice in thy nightly rambles, Prince  
Henrique, dressed in faultless foreign garb,  
With such emboldened air and iced exterior,  
That frigid smiles did play across his features ?

*Inez.* I met a courtly man as tall as thou,  
With such degree of court politeness that—

*Don Mig.* That what ?

*Inez.* He turned aside and circled  
round

Me, lifting such a hat of loveliness,

I could but change my courtly etiquette  
With him.

*Don Mig.* Then will we toss a penny, love;  
For, 'tween us is a bow, a Spanish song.  
Fair Inez, are we not at quits? 'Tis so;  
Lolita danced and sang for me; the prince,  
Ha, doffed his hat and circled round thee so! (*Imitating.*

*Inez.* Restore my mask, and I will hie me hence  
And nevermore go watching. Wilt forgive me?

*Don Mig.* And with a kiss, if stage propriety  
Forbade it not. But thought is deed for such.  
When marriage crowns us, and old Hymen lights  
Us to our bridal couch, then shall our kisses  
Re-echo to the night, and gossips hear  
No echoings. But, let me be thy knight;  
For clouds have curled across the sky, and stars  
Twinkle behind impenetrable darkness,  
The sad round moon illuming but in vain.

*Inez.* If other business call thee, night for me  
Hath not a frightening harm. My love is brave.

*Don Mig.* (*Aside.*) 'Twill be a hero if in battle for  
Granada's heart!

*Inez.* Wast speaking, Miguel?

*Don Mig.* One only thought, but thou wert in it, Inez.  
But, come. I'll be thy starless night escort;  
And dancing girl or prince durst cross our path,  
I'll have the right of deadly arbitration!

*Enter MIDDLE.*

What knave of trumps is this? Our worthy clown.

*Middle.* They call me Middle. Why? The fool is in  
The middle. But, now begging clownly pardons,  
I just rubbed up against a courtly fool,

If fool can see a fool, Don Miguel.

*Don Mig.* What! cursed Henrique? Fool! Thy  
hand, fair Inez;

Since I would lead thee from such paltry prince.

Old trouble goes a-brewing night and day,

And rises from the clown to lord or prince. (*Leads her out.*

*Middle.* A fool by nature I, but he through love.

I sleep and dream because I know no better;

They lie awake and dream because of love.

That I could be as wise as he for seconds,

To know just how a self-made fool doth feel.

Ah! enters love's true pattern of a man,

And something near as pretty as a girl;

And yet a man, a human, human man,

I'll get behind the wing, and fool-like listen

To life's dear love-made fool. One fool 't to time;

Enter, my wise apportioned counterpart. (*Hides behind the  
wing. Enter PRINCE HENRIQUE.*

*Henrique.* Was never such a lovely maid in all  
The realm of Spain. She raised her domino;

But haply that I were some other lord;

Perchance, this proud Granada. Ha, ha, ha!

A triple villain truly. Three strange loves;

One, Lola, a Gitano dancing girl,

With such a midnight beauty, e'en old courtiers

Find their dull hearts a-pounding 'gainst their sides.

And Inez. For some old hidalgo gossips

Did prate the secrets of the town because,

Forsooth! I am a master of the sword,

And hied me from a foreign land with suite

Of lovely gentlemen that beggar art.

What foolish men we women are. A hoax?



I mean we men turned womanish by women.  
Ha, ha, there's Miguel; a Spanish hero,  
As brave as Cæsar; master of the sword;  
A glorious good companion; wit and wine  
His mottoes; ever ready at a need;  
Sharing his last pistole; and yet I dub him  
A pickaninny dressed to please the fair.  
Out on a pickpurse lord like him. I'm tired  
Seeing brave men still tied to ladies' skirts.  
Ah! here's a maudlin fool; old nature did it.

*Enter MIDDLE, grinning.*

Well, well, thou leering ninny, why hast come?

*Middle.* Because my legs would argue 'gainst my mind.

*Henrique.* Legs? Middle, poor are legs in argument.

*Middle.* A clownly pardon. But thou'lt hear a clown?

*Henrique.* A fool or clown, 'tis all the same to princes.

*Middle.* I stole a capon from the roosting.

*Henrique.*

Well.

*Middle.* My legs were wiser than a lord; they ran.

*Henrique.* And that was all thy lawyer's argument?

*Middle.* Nay; for I fed my legs down thro' my mouth.

*Henrique.* Devoured the chicken?

*Middle.*

Yea; and crowed

for more.

*Henrique.* How so?

*Middle.* The chicken was a rooster, sir.

*Henrique.* Thou art a fool indeed, a very fool.

*Middle.* But had Henrique my two legs, 'twere well.

*Henrique.* Pray tell me ere thy blood's upon my sword!

*Middle.* He would have run away from maid Dolores.

*Henrique.* But I do know her not. Explain, thou fool!

*Middle.* All men do bow to Queen Dolores, sir.

*Henrique.* And so must I needs take to paltry legs?

*Middle.* Yea; trust thy legs in love for all thy heart;

For legs in love have more of earthly wisdom.

*Henrique.* Don Miguel hath several loves, dear clown.

*Middle.* Then several times as big a fool as thou.

*Henrique.* And both his legs have failed to extricate him?

But hence! I'm fooling with my heart's true love;

And as the saying is: One fool't to time.

*Middle.* I go; but when did love e'er get along  
Without his fool?

*Enter INEZ.*

*Inez.* Dear Middle, who is this?

*Middle.* A man, if still he be a prince, Miss Inez.

*Henrique.* A thousand princely pardons, senorita.

*Inez.* Senor, I am intrusive; I'll withdraw.

*Henrique.* Thou hast such art and life's divinity,  
No foreign lord could fail to bow to thee.

*Enter DOLORES.*

*Dolores.* And here are maidens fair and very fine;  
But handsome gentlemen call me divine!

*Henrique.* O what a beauty of a woman, Inez.

*Inez.* Indeed, as lovely as a bridal rose.

*Henrique.* A Spanish lass—(*Enter MIGUEL suddenly,  
drawing his sword.*)

*Don Mig.* Ho! draw, thou paltry villain,  
And Inez and Dolores be the judges!

*Middle.* I'll get my bandage; soon two bloods will flow.

*Inez.* Don Miguel, put up thy coward sword.

*Henrique.* Or mine shall spill thy treacherous blood,  
bold prince!

(*They fence. As MIGUEL falls from a thrust, into the arms*



*of DOLORES, MORENO rushes between them, wounded by MIGUEL'S flying sword, but is caught in the arms of ALBERTI, INEZ fainting and falling into the arms of HENRIQUE, the clown staring in a corner.*

CURTAIN FALLS.



MY AIDENN



### MY AIDENN.

Oh have you seen my castle?

Ah me! down by the sea;

My castle, tasseled castle,

And built so wondrously,

Built on a plan of beauty

Surpassing any dream,

My tessellated castle

With silver joist and beam?

A window facing heaven

Where brightest angels be,

My fairy, airy castle

Fronting the restless sea,

Aye restless when I'm sleeping,

Sleeping my sleep of love,

With sands and waters round me,

And eve's one star above.

For architect a Cupid

With newly-fledged wing,

So beauty, beauty, beauty,

And I the crowned king!

A king in such a kingdom,

I'm happy at the thought,

I'm happy in this kingdom,

There is no happier spot!

I have a priceless Raphael,  
Raphael and Keats and Keats,  
I have all kinds of music,  
A nook with rustic seats,  
Cupids in silver fountains,  
And o'er my fabric whole,  
And o'er my glorious fabric  
The beauty of the soul.

The sea-mew moaneth, crieth,  
Crieth for joy all day,  
In undertone the breakers  
Moan out a roundelay,  
Moan out, and yet a ditty  
As soft as sigh or kiss,  
It seems to me, it seemeth  
Here in this vale of bliss.

New veiny shells and pebbles  
Washed by a thousand waves,  
A thousand waves in trebles,  
In little bars and staves,  
Roll at my feet, and to them  
I say: "O ocean shell  
And pebble, what's your mission,  
A kiss or faretheewell?"

I fondle; unreplying,  
They shine and sparkle so,  
Sparkle and shine so wondrous,  
Oh be it yea or no?  
Yea, shall I fondle, linger?  
Since in my dreams with thee,  
I hear a far off music  
Intoned by the sea.

Is't love? I'm not so foolish;  
My castle! Ah, too true,  
No maiden fair or elfish  
Shall dare dispute with you;  
For, hear me, stone and mortar,  
Mortar and groined stone,  
My castle's for a hermit,  
I'd live here all alone.

A skiff, a boat so dainty  
'Twould tip with Cupid in,  
A lullaby is playing:  
"We have no kith and kin!"  
And so I'm free as breakers,  
Breakers with crests of foam,  
That sparkle, flash and shimmer  
Around my castle home.

Around my castle lordly,—  
And O the peace to me!  
And O the music in me!  
The music of the sea;  
So glorious, olden, golden,  
My castle wondrous fair,  
So olden, golden, glorious,  
Divinity is there!

Architrave and rafter,  
Rafter and lintel too,  
The corbel old, fantastic,  
No mortal more could do;  
Demonic spirits come not,  
Demonic elves are far,  
The beauty that is o'er me  
Is made of moon and star.

I dine with rosy nectar  
    Winking with bubbly eyes.  
Ah me! I have ambrosia,  
    And wines from sunny skies;  
I brim my beakers, beakers,  
    My beakers lined with gold,  
The wine I quaff's delicious,  
    Delicious in cobwebs old.  
  
I fondle Poe in visions,  
    In visions with him lie.  
Our only golden poet!  
    Our only? Tell me why?  
Verlaine in rhythmic numbers,  
    With haunting melodies.  
Weird melodies fantastic,  
    Sad, sombre, elfish glees.  
  
With rapturous, beauteous music,  
    Yea, beauteous, too, as death.  
When new love's loveliest maiden—  
    Hush! giveth up her breath!  
With cadence dripping glorious  
    The red, red wines of thought,  
With heaven and hell contending  
    In beauties he has wrought.  
  
And so the wingèd sunshine  
    Chases the shadows grim,  
Chases from nook and corner,  
    Till wraiths, ah, faint and slim,  
As apparitions, haunt me,  
    Spirits of those I knew;  
But, O delicious, luscious,  
    To be with such as you!



Against my window, music,  
    Fantastic, half divine,  
Divine and heavenly wondrous,  
    Sparkling like beaded wine,  
White wine that makes capricious  
    Dream-fancies unto me,  
Until I laugh ecstatic,  
    Demoniac in my glee.  
Taine, Lamb, Montaigne and Zangwill,  
    Yea, glorious are to me,  
The friends I love, the friendships  
    Best for their rarity!  
As scarce as Brownings, Shelleys,  
    A Coleridge, yea, a Poe;  
But well-a-way, I'm happy,—  
    The sea-wave boometh low.  
The sea-wave is my organ,  
    My emerald minstrelsy,  
In undertone majestic,  
    In horrid revelry;  
In cadent, rhythmic numbers,  
    Diversified for me,  
Come o'er me, to me, to me,  
    These ballads of the sea.  
So, here I'd live forever,  
    Forever, yea and aye,  
With nothing diabolic,  
    Nothing to slay or flay;  
Great ships with sails outbellied,  
    White glistening on the wave,  
White glistening like a phantom,  
    Sail on with runic stave.

And I am left forever  
In castle by the sea,  
With organ tones majestic,  
Buried in majesty,  
Buried in hoary glories,  
Glories of wind and wave,  
And should I die angelic,  
Let ocean be my grave!

SONG OF THE SEA SHELL



## SONG OF THE SEA SHELL

Through diamond sands I wander  
In olden glories lost,  
In old fantastic beauties,  
Holding a shell embossed  
With many a wavy nodule,  
A message-shell to me,  
A message from the ages,  
And tell-tales of the sea.

I sit me wayward, curious,  
Curious in phantasy,  
O'erfilled with revelations,  
And love-songs of the sea.  
And love-songs, ditties olden.  
Olden like corkèd wine,  
The wine of tipsy Bacchus,  
Reveling with maids divine.

And as I sit, my sea-shell  
Telleth a tale to me,  
A song, a song, a love-song,  
The mystery of the sea ;  
A song so weird, so elfish,  
Elfish and weird and fine,  
I clasp it for its glory,  
Its tell-tales of the brine.

I kiss it, who may know it?  
Perchance a mermaid queen.  
With rapturous kiss ecstatic,  
Kissed it in ocean's green;  
Yea, kissed it with a passion.  
A passion mermaids know,  
Down, down in ocean kingdoms,  
Where moon-tides ebb and flow.  
Where mermen, mermaids wander  
In ocean jubilee,  
Shells, carcanet, fantastic,  
And rare festivity;  
Where grottoed reefs of coral.  
Corals by insects built,  
Sparkle and shimmer, sparkle  
Like diamonds on a hilt.  
So, tell me, ocean, ocean,  
So, tell me, empty shell,  
What secret hast thou, hast thou?  
What secret hast to tell?  
I hold you, and I hear you,  
Singing a song, a song,  
Who made your ocean music  
That singeth all day long?  
I found you on the seashore  
Buried in sifting sand,  
Oh did you hie from India?  
Or is't your native strand?  
A weird hallucination,  
Fantastic as a dream,  
Haunteth my soul, O Sea-shell!  
With evanescent gleam.

Did ocean queen e'er string you,  
And play old roundelays?  
Rondels of cavallieros,  
In olden, golden days?  
What pearls have heard your music?  
Your song is never old,  
A thousand years 'twill murmur  
To ages yet untold.

And yet I cannot solve you,  
Your song is hid from me.  
Within your minstrel bosom  
Is hid your melody;  
Your song is never ending,—  
What other age shall hear?  
O will you e'er be voiceless;  
And silent to the ear?





HELL AND HEAVEN



## HELL AND HEAVEN

They drag me hellward, mother,  
They drag me hellward aye,  
They drag me hellward, hellward.  
They drag me though I pray ;

I see them idiotic,—

O how their red eyes gleam !  
Their power, oh 'tis despotic,  
They seize me in my dream !

I try to shape and fashion  
A manner of escape,  
But devils diabolic,  
They mime and stare and gape.

Till beads of perspiration  
Rush startled to my face,  
O horrid, weird damnation  
Translate me from this place.

But, nay, the crownèd goblet  
Is pressèd to my lip,

“Taste, mortal, weary mortal.

Yea, take a human sip !”

But, nay, I dash it from me,

I see the shattered glass ;

“Get hence, uncertain shadows.

I go to holy mass !”

But, Mother Mary, mother,  
    Good angels kiss my brow,  
Kiss me, angelic, rapturous,  
    And 'tice me heavenward now;  
Their white wings fan my curtains.  
    An odor comes to me,  
As from a swinging censer  
    Hung in eternity!  
"O how the music playeth!—  
    They bear me to the sky,—  
Oh let me dream in odors,  
    In dreamland let me lie."  
"But, nay, you conquered, mortal,  
    The miming devils lost;  
Your dream will end in heaven,  
    You won at any cost!"  
So, hell and heaven's contention,  
    Mangled, but left me free,  
As wingèd bird in ether,  
    As sea-mew o'er the sea;  
As bee on swinging floweret,  
    A pure, a perfect whole,  
And 'spite of hell, demonian,  
    Heaven won a perfect soul!

AMABEL





## AMABEL

Her eyes were as the star-shine.

When skies are blue, so blue,

Amabilis, my love-queen,—

O for a world like you!

I love you, love you, love you.

Amabilis, my Bel,

Down deeply in my bosom,

Deeper adown than hell!

All night-time in my spirit,

When clouds go hide and seek.

With her I go; seraphic,—

She loves me if she speak;

But when the veils of morning

By angels are withdrawn,

By angels, holy angels,

My idol maid is gone!

Last e'en I saw an angel,

But now I go to her;—

I start and stare theatric!—

Must love drink myrrh, love's myrrh?

Love's aberration, 'ation.  
Is in her lovely eye;  
My God, my God, my Jesus,  
Drop mercy from the sky!

"My Amabel, a demon,  
A demon wicked, fell,  
Has ta'en your reason, reason,  
My spotless Amabel!

"Oh horrid aberration!  
So wicked, cruel, fell,  
You've ta'en her perfect reason,  
Amabilis, my Bel!"

Oh eyes! oh where your meaning?  
Where love in loveliness?—  
Now waits hallucination  
To kill Amabilis;

To kill where love made beauty,  
A beauty love could see;  
But, ah! this dissolution,  
The living death to me!

I try to win love-glances,  
The poem of her face,  
The poem only love's eyes  
In love can fondly trace:

Ah me! I'm but a stranger,—  
What made her love me so,  
And then with toppling reason,  
Turn eyes that do not know?

I take her hand ; ecstatic,  
I fondle and caress,  
I touch her lips with kisses,—  
She stares. O my distress !

I show the old love fondness ;  
I cry : “My Amabel !”  
Her love has said : “’Tis over ;  
It is our last farewell !”

Then reason made her beauty ?—  
As marble is she fair !  
A Greek Slave in her beauty,  
But life is wanting there !

Her eye is unresponsive,  
Her cheek ?—the rose is gone ;  
Oh great world, you are empty,  
Though you may jangle on !

Come back in marble whiteness,  
O soul of Amabel,  
Come back to love’s dear palace,  
Come back, forever dwell

In love’s dear tabanacle,  
In love’s cathedral home ;  
For where a lovelier prison ?  
Come back, white soul ! don’t roam.

But sackcloth, dust and ashes,  
Her eye will shine no more ;  
Her eye, her face are vacant,  
Vacant forevermore ;

So, what is love? Who knoweth?

She loved, but now loves not;

I am a perfect stranger,—

My love she has forgot!

So, to my love's dominion

Came imps of horrid dread.

Came to my love's dominion,

Till Amabel lies dead!

Yea, dead to love and loving,

And dead to even me;

So, faretheewell, my darling,

Love's last farewell to thee!

FINIS.







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